

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

DAILY RECORD

OFFICE OF CHIEF - BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL AND
INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY

DECEMBER, 1942 - MARCH, 1944 (INCLUSIVE)

DR. W. W. SKINNER, CHIEF OF BUREAU

AD-33 Bookplate
(1-63)

NATIONAL

A
G
R
I
C
U
L
T
U
R
A
L



LIBRARY R

287934

aS585
.S54
v.3

Notes of C. F. Spahr
Acting chief
during Dr. Skinner's
illness (August)

August

Monday, August 2, 1943

(Speh)

257934

283

Norelac conference called for August 23 to extend over to August 24. Passed this information on to Dr. Hutchman who says this date and time will be acceptable.

Mr. Paine arrived from New Orleans for purpose of attending dehydration and compression conferences.

Mr. Paine states that as of the date on which he left New Orleans, July 31, the following people have indicated their intention of leaving New Orleans, and attempting to make arrangements for transfer to some other point: Tremearne, Max Phillips, Miss Clarke, Miss Thompson, Claborn and Harris.

Bureau Chiefs' Meeting at 9:30 A.M. Dr. Auchter presiding.

(1) Dexter North who is handling the patents under the Alien Custodian made a statement on the patents of foreign and occupied countries. There are about 41,000 patents in this group, about 20% of which are chemical patents. Mr. North divided the information on patents now in the hands of the Alien Custodian into five groups: 1. Issued patents 41,000

2. Pending patent applications 4,000

3. Abandoned patent applications 10,000

4. Unfiled patents applications 10,000

Patent Holdings of Corporations Handled by the Alien Custodian

Mr. North described the catalog of the patents and other information on patent subjects which he had.

(2) There was a general discussion on the policy of the ARA towards testing of new articles. Dr. Auchter appointed a committee consisting of a representative of the Bureau of Entomology, the Bureau of Plant Industry, and the Bureau of Animal Industry to report at the next meeting with suggestions as to formulating a policy towards research on patented articles.

(3) Dr. Auchter announced that Dr. Miller had been appointed Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

(4) Dr. Auchter called the attention of the group to the President's letter of July 15 regarding the making public differences of opinion among Government officials. He presumed that the information and warning in this letter had been conveyed to each of the supervising groups throughout the bureaus.

(5) Dr. Auchter felt that any money which a private corporation wished to devote to the carrying on of research in cooperation with any of the agencies should be deposited for that specific purpose in the U. S. Treasury - that money then must be made available to the Department of Agriculture and then go on to the budget of the agency carrying on the work. There was

considerable discussion on this subject and the rather impracticable features involved were pointed out. No definite action was taken.

(6) During the discussion on the policy of permitting ARA personnel having travel and subsistence expenses paid by a private corporation, Mr. Speh submitted the request which he had received this morning from the ERRL wherein the Citrus Concentrates, Dunedin, Fla. had requested the services for one week of Mr. Mottern of the ERRL to go to their pectin production plant at Dunedin for the purpose of determining the cause of the low quality and low quantity of output. The Citrus Concentrates offered to pay all expenses. Dr. Auchter stated that he did not favor handling it in this way - that if the Government was justified in asking their men, even if the man was willing to take annual leave, he felt that the Government should pay the expenses.

(7) Mr. Cardon submitted a proposed amended form of USDA Project Form No. 6, Annual Report for Uniform Projects, and asked that each bureau give the proposed form critical examination and that the person who has been preparing these reports be asked to prepare a report on some project using the proposed form in order to determine whether the changes suggested are acceptable or not.

Dr. Wells telephoned to Mr. Speh stating that Mr. B. C. Skinner, President of Citrus Concentrates, Dunedin, Florida, had requested that the services of Dr. Mottern of the ERRL be made available to the Citrus Concentrates to make a trip of one week to the Dunedin plant to determine the cause of low quality and low quantity production of pectin at that plant. This plant is a Government-owned plant and is now being operated by the Citrus Concentrates. The Lend-Lease buys the entire output of pectin. Lend-lease, because of low quality and low output threatens to cancel the lease of Citrus Concentrates, and for this reason Mr. Skinner wishes to have a survey made of the plant. Mr. Speh discussed this matter with Dr. Woodbury and Mr. Cardon, both of whom agreed that within certain

provisos it would be agreeable to have Dr. Mottern make the trip. However, when Mr. Speh submitted the request as a test case to Dr. Auchter at the meeting of the Bureau Chiefs today, it was decided that Dr. Mottern, if he was to go, should go at Government expense and Government time. This information was conveyed to Dr. Wells by telephone by Mr. Speh, and it was agreed that Dr. Wells would prepare a justification statement to the effect that Dr. Mottern was going to Dunedin, Florida to examine the pectin production plant of the Citrus Concentrates in order to study the procedure and equipment in use by that company, as the process - a continuous spray drying process - is somewhat new in this field and that the information would be of value to the work of the Bureau in pectin. Mr. Speh conferred with Mr. Bob Evans who is handling pectin for Lend-lease (Ext. 5120) and while Mr. Evans stated that they have not made the request nor contemplate making a request, that they would welcome such an unbiased inspection.

Dr. H. C. McPhee of the Bureau of Animal Industry called Mr. Speh relative to the possibility of continuing Mr. W. A. Noel on his present assignment inasmuch as the dehydrator on which he has been working is still incomplete and requires further work. Dr. McPhee explained that if arrangements could be made for Mr. Noel to continue on his work for a month or a month and a half, it would mean completing the job, and otherwise, in its incomplete stage, it would mean just that much time and energy wasted. Mr. Speh explained that the Bureau had received instructions to take Mr. Noel back effective the first of July, and so the necessary preparations were made for this. However, there has been a delay and the decision rests with Dr. Auchter, Dr. McPhee agreed to present the matter to the Research Administrator,

Meeting at 3 O'clock in Dr. Woodbury's office. Present Capt. Junk (QMC), Van Arsdell, Paine, Speh and Woodbury. Discussion on the proposed plan for re-dehydration of apricots, reducing their moisture content from 25 to 14%. It is proposed to buy the sun-dried apricots, wash them, blanch, re-sulfur and dehydrate. There was

considerable discussion on the testing of the Cabot process of dehydration by the use of natural gas as presented by Mr. Titus.

At 4 o'clock a meeting in the office of Mr. Woody Myers, FDA. Present - Capt. Junk, Dr. Woodbury, Van Arsdell, Paine, Parsons (FDA), Rogers (Lend-Lease) and Speh. Discussion on the results of the drying of apricots at the ElSolyo Ranch and the compression of these apricots and of prunes.

Conference at Dr. Auchter at Mr. Speh's request. Discussed (1) the proposed changes in work projects. Dr. Auchter agreed to the changing of the work project "Sugar, Sirups and Oils" to "Sugar and Sirups", and the assignment of the work on waxes to the work project on "Sugar Cane Byproducts", and the setting up of a work project on Tung Oil Chemical, Technological and Utilization Investigations"; to the consolidation of the enzyme and phytochemical work in a Division of Enzyme and Phytochemistry Investigations. He felt that while he heartily approved the suggestions that the Microbiological Section now located in Philadelphia be removed from there and a suitable division made between Agricultural Chemical Research work at the Southern Laboratory and the Enzyme-Phytochemical work at the Western Laboratory, he felt that this change should not be made until the present arrangement had been continued for a year. Therefore, it is desirable that we immediately build a program for the microbiological work under Dr. McFarlane.

Discussed the status of Mr. Teuton, and it was agreed that we should continue under the present understanding, namely, that Mr. Teuton and Miss Prater would remain where they are and that Mr. Teuton ~~and Miss~~ would handle the matters pertaining to information for the Bureau rendering such aid to Mr. Hambidge on information of the ARA as called for. // Dr. Auchter was very critical of the manner in which the Bureau is handling matters referred to his office. He stated that this was the only bureau for which he found it necessary to carefully scrutinize every statement sent him for his signature. He realizes that some of this might be due to the conditions underwhich we have been operating since Dr. Knight's death, but he feels that efforts should be made to remedy the present unsatisfactory condition.

Mr. John B. Newman, Washington representative of the Corn Industries Research Foundation called to see Mr. Speh. He wished to discuss the question of production of wheat starch. He appears disturbed over the intimation that the Corn Products Industry are not cooperating and refuse to recognize the corn-wheat starch

situation. Mr. Newman is to see Mr. Sayer, Vice-President of the Corn Products Assn. in New York and will be back here some day during the week of August 8, at which time he wishes a conference with Dr. May.

Mr. Cardon telephoned Mr. Speh that it would not be possible for Dr. Auchter to arrange to have his photograph taken, as per request of Mr. Gott, President, of the National Confectioners Association of the United States.

Mr. H. B. Shields telephoned Mr. Speh and asked the status of the investigation on Gutcha nut oil samples which were left here some time ago and which at Dr. Woodbury's suggestion were sent to the Southern Regional Laboratory for examination. Mr. Speh told Mr. Shields that the samples had been examined but we were not going to release any information until the samples of Gutcha nuts now on their way were received and extracted. An examination of this oil will be made and the results compared with the samples of oil sent to New Orleans.

Mr. Speh telephoned Dr. Wells to arrange to have Dr. McFarlane come to Washington for a conference at the earliest date. Dr. Wells stated that the guayule program at the ERRL would stop September 1 and that the full program would be carried on at Salinas. The 1945 program at the ERRL will be based on koh-saghys.

Memorandum of Telephone Conversation

Dr. Donald B. Keyes of the Office of Production Research and Development, War Production Board, telephoned Mr. Speh and stated that Mr. Stallings (WPB) had spoken to Dr. Keyes relative to the fact that Mr. Tucker did not appear to be taking any notes at the Stamping Ground tests. As Dr. Keyes stated, "Mr. Tucker appears to keep everything in his head." He stated further that this was all right up to this point; he could understand why he wouldn't be keeping notes. But Mr. Stallings was apprehensive about whether Mr. Tucker would take notes later when it would be most important that he do so.

Mr. Speh explained that he had written to Dr. Balls on this matter and that Mr. Tucker would receive instructions from Dr. Balls. Mr. Speh stated further that the Bureau was desirous of having Mr. Tucker take notes inasmuch as he was at Stamping Ground as a technical advisor. However, Mr. Speh stated that it was up to the Office of Production Research and Development to see that the Schenley people took what notes they wanted and Dr. Keyes said that they were prepared to do that, but inasmuch as Mr. Tucker was there as a "sort of master of ceremonies" he and Stallings thought he should keep notes. He said there is a good reason why he hasn't done so so far, but that Stallings is getting a little "panicky" about the future.

Mr. Speh reiterated that he had written a long letter to Dr. Balls in which he emphasized the importance of maintaining records of developments and that Dr. Balls would so instruct Mr. Tucker.

Memorandum of Telephone Conversation

Mr. Speh called Dr. Wells, long distance, to state that he had tried to contact Dr. McFarlane but that he had been advised that Dr. McFarlane was on annual leave. Mr. Speh explained that he had had a long talk with Dr. Auchter and he believes he is ready for a clear-cut program on microbiology. He would like Dr. McFarlane to come down and bring him up to date on the Microbiology Section. Mr. Speh stated that it would be well if Dr. McFarlane could come down either Friday or Saturday but if he is on leave with definite commitments, he should not break his appointments and Monday would be satisfactory. He can finish up in one day. Dr. Wells stated that he would find out from the office when Dr. McFarlane would be back and would advise Dr. McFarlane of Mr. Speh's wishes.

Mr. Speh complimented Dr. Wells on the guayule statement. He said that it looks like a wonderful record. Mr. Speh asked Dr. Wells if he received his note relative to the possibility of the Secretary making a decision as to what will be done re guayule.

Dr. Wells advised that they are estimated for 1945 full operation at the Eastern Laboratory in the absence of what Forest Service is going to do. Guayule -- everything will be out. Kok-saghyz in.

Re Dr. Wilfred Place, Mr. Speh asked Dr. Wells about the status of this and Dr. Wells advised that it a personal matter with Dr. Place and he knew nothing since talking to Mr. Speh in Chicago. Mr. Speh asked if Dr. Place had done anything since then and Dr. Wells stated that he thought Dr. Place had seen the Consul General in San Francisco. Mr. Speh asked if inasmuch as Dr. Place is not in a favorable position with the Belgian Government, would we be guilty of giving information to someone against them, and Dr. Wells replied, "No."

Memorandum on the Conference with Mr. Wheeler of the Office of Budget and Finance, Mr. Koebel of the Solicitor's Office, and Mr. Smoot of the Agricultural Research Administration on the question of the change in language proposed by the Bureau of the Budget on the Subappropriation items of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry.

Preamble for the Bureau's appropriation:

It was agreed after my presentation that the Department would endeavor to retain the language as now carried rather than make the changes proposed. It was also agreed that with reference to the "employment in the City of Washington and elsewhere", the language would be changed to "employment at the seat of Government." The purpose of this is to bring our language into conformity with proposed language for other subappropriations in view of the fact that decentralization for many of the Bureaus has changed the seat of Government from Washington insofar as the particular Bureau is concerned.

General Administrative Expenses:

It was agreed that the Department would accept the suggested change which would merely give the language "General Administration".

Agricultural Chemical Investigations:

It was agreed, based upon my submission, that the Department would attempt to hold the language as now carried and not make the changes recommended.

Naval Stores:

It was agreed that the Department would attempt to retain the present language instead of making the changes.

Regional Research Laboratories:

The changes proposed were very minor and it was agreed that this small change could properly be made. This item will also exclude the reference

to personal services in the District of Columbia and make this read "Personal Services at the seat of Government".

H. A. Donovan

Conference with Dr. Woodbury's office to discuss food compression program. Present - Salter, cullen, magnés, VanArsdel, Woodbury and Speh. Mr. Van Arsdel submitted a statement prepared by him and Paine covering the various phases of the problem and a plan of work. This was discussed briefly. Allotment of funds and personnel were discussed. Names were submitted for consideration as chief technical adviser for the project -Goss, Gastrock, Reed, Van Arsdel, Blenheim.

Dr. McPhee called on the telephone to report that the Bureau of the Budget has ruled that no money on the meat dehydration project may be expended for the completion of the dehydrater which Mr. Noel designed and has partially built.

Telephoned Mr. Herrick from Dr. May's office. Discussed selection of a man to head up the food compression program. Names suggested by May and Woodbury were Goss, Langford, Milner and Lathrop. Herrick stated the selection of any one of these men would greatly interfere with the work of the laboratory. Herrick called back in the afternoon reiterating his position and suggested contacting Stephen Tyler, Secretary, AICE, and W. H. Baskerville of University of Tennessee Expt. Station.

Telephoned Wells on same subject stating that Copley's name had been suggested. Wells called back stating that selection of Copley would greatly interfere with the rubber program and he suggested R. E. Palmer of the Lake Ontario Ordinance Works. All of these names have been suggested to Dr. Woodbury.

Conference with Woodbury and May on food compression program. Conference dealt chiefly with selection of a leader.

Had conference with Dr. Auchter regarding the dried egg work. Dr. Auchter had received a long distance call from Dean Buchanan. He stated that the National Egg Dehydration Association had made a sum of money available to Dean Buchanan to be distributed among 4 or 5 experiment stations in that area to carry on studies on the cause of spoilage of dried and frozen eggs. This was followed by a letter to Dr. Auchter confirming the conversation. Dean Buchanan was anxious to establish proper relations with those in ARA carrying work on dried eggs. Dean Buchanan wishes to call an early conference at Ames to discuss the program. At Dr. Auchter's suggestion Mr. Soeh submitted to Dr. A. the names of McFarlane and Lightbody, who he thought should attend the conference.

Telephoned Swenson to check up on who should attend the conference at Ames. Discussed the selection of a leader for the food compression program.

Talked to Balls about Tucker reporting to Washington and to Swenson about attendance at ACS. Swenson is leaving for Portland, and thence on his vacation on August 11. He is scheduled to be back in Albany about the 26th

Mr. Gott, President of the National Confectioners' Association called to see if arrangements had been made for making a photograph of Dr. Auchter and Dr. Skinner in the act of signing the cooperative agreement between this Bureau and the National Confectioners' Association. Mr. Speh explained to Mr. Gott that this was impossible and Mr. Gott seemed to be satisfied.

Discussed with Dr. May, Herrick's letter regarding the release of data on oil from damaged soybeans. Decided to call Herrick Tuesday morning.

C.F.Speh

Mr. Speh talked to Dr. McFarlane over long distance telephone explaining the purpose of the conference in Ames on dried egg storage.

Dr. May and Mr. Speh telephoned Mr. Herrick to discuss the question of releasing data obtained on the test runs made on damaged soybeans. It was decided that Herrick could release this data provided he pointed out very strongly the fact that this represented the results of but one test, at one plant, with one particular kind of machine, and should not be used as representing what might be found in several plants on a whole year's run.

Mr. Herrick indicated to Dr. May that he was planning to attend the Starch Conference at French Lick, Sept. 3-5.

Mr. Nagel, in charge of transportation and warehousing of FDA telephoned for information regarding the absorption of odors by dried eggs. Mr. Speh replied that this Bureau had done very little work on this subject but undoubtedly some of the Bureau's men must have obtained practical experience in the dried egg contacts. Mr. Speh then conveyed to Mr. Nagel the information which he gathered from Mr. Stuart which was to the effect that dried eggs stored in the open would absorb odors, particularly fruit and such odors as onions, etc. However if the eggs are stored in so-called moisture-proof packages there would be no absorption of odors, or if the eggs were stored in a lined barrel there would be little or no absorption of odors. Mr. Speh followed up this conversation by writing to the WRRL to see if they have any more definite information on this.

In response to Mr. Speh's wire, Mr. Paine telephoned from New York, at which time Mr. Speh discussed with him what arrangements had been made with L.S.U. in connection with the sorghum work, particularly towards meeting any deficit that may result in making sugar from the lots of sorghum cane which will be shipped to them. Mr. Paine explained that the American Sugar Cane League had made available \$2000. This money is to be used for buying the sorghum, up to 150 tons and shipping to L.S.U. L.S.U.

is to put the cane through the sugar mill and make sugar. L.S.U. is to provide all facilities and labor. Mr. Paine is to provide the technical assistance necessary. All data on yields, costs, etc. is to be recorded. L.S.U. is to receive the sugar and all byproducts not needed as samples or for further study. L.S.U. is to be reimbursed for any deficiency between the cost of operation and the sale of the products; that this deficiency is to be met as far as possible from that portion of the \$2000 which is not needed for the purchase and transportation of the sorghum cane. From this program it is evident that at no time does the Government acquire title to the cane or any of its products, other than the samples.

The second subject discussed with Mr. Paine was that of his reallocation to Assistant Director of the SRRL. Mr. Speh explained that the request had been received from Mr. Lynch on a P-6 basis. Mr. Speh explained that the records in the office indicated that the matter as to whether this precedent should be made on a P-6 or P-7 basis had been thoroughly discussed and that Dr. Skinner had indicated that a sincere effort would be made to place the Assistant Director in the P-7 grade. Mr. Speh explained to Mr. Paine that Dr. Skinner had made this effort in the form of an appeal to Dr. Auchter. Mr. Speh further stated that he had discussed the matter with Dr. Auchter and made an appeal that the position be set up as P-7. Mr. Speh explained to Mr. Paine that Dr. Auchter had pointed out that the only other Asst. Director was in the P-6 grade and that it was his understanding that the transfer was to have been made on a P-6 basis. The discussion ended in a request by Mr. Paine that we take no action on the matter until his return to New Orleans at which time he would write a letter.

Mr. Speh told Mr. Paine that Mr. Gott, President, of the National Confectioners Association would call Mr. Paine at his New York Hotel Wednesday morning.

Wednesday, August 11, 1943

(Speh)

300.

Mr. Shaefer of Mr. Groggins' office stated that he wished to know if we had any objections to Mr. Groggins offering Dr. Goldblatt a P-5 position in the FDA. Mr. Speh asked him to wait a few days.

Mr. Donovan received a phone call from Dr. Auchter asking that Dr. Auchter receive not later than noon on the 12th a complete statement of the history and background of the dust explosion work.

Mr. Speh telephoned Dr. Brandes to inquire as to the status of a memorandum of understanding or cooperative agreement with the L.S.U. in connection with the sorghum sugar work. Dr. Brandes said there was no agreement or understanding beyond that which exists in the broad cooperative agreement set up with the L.S.U. Experiment Station. Mr. Speh repeated to Dr. Brandes the situation as described by Mr. Paine. To all of this Dr. Brandes agreed. Dr. Brandes did add however that the matter had been discussed and it was deemed desirable to have some form of specific understanding with L.S.U. on this particular project but no such agreement had been drawn up.

At 12:05 P.M. Mr. Donovan delivered to Dr. Auchter's office the requested statement on the history of farm fires and dust explosion investigations which had been requested by Dr. Auchter yesterday afternoon.

Dr. May stated that Dr. Auchter had instructed him to get in touch with Mr. Speh and have Mr. Speh immediately take the necessary steps for the reallocation of Mr. Paine from his present position as Chief of the Agricultural Chemical Research Division to Assistant Director, SRRL, the reallocation in this new position to be on the basis of P-6. Parallel to this, we are to immediately take steps for the reallocation of Mr. Hollingshead from his present position to P-6, Chief of the ACR Division; at least that portion which has been removed to the SRRL.

Mr. A. M. Peterson (Telephone: NA 3636), attorney of Washington representing the State of Florida, telephoned to request that we make available copies of correspondence between Mr. H. S. Paine and Arthur J. Nolte regarding a patent application which had been filed by Nolte and von Loesecke, co-inventors of a process for the production of yeast cattle feed from citrus pulp and citrus waste. The State of Florida, through an invention by Prof. Neal of the Univ. of Florida operating under Lend-Lease funds, has filed application for patent; Vincent patent cited against application. The State of Florida now proposes to start interference against Vincent patent. Arrangements have apparently been made for von Loesecke to appear as an expert on the case. Mr. Speh discussed the matter with Mr. Kramer of the Solicitor's office who said it was perfectly proper and was purely an administrative matter. Arrangements have been made to gather the correspondence, have photo-state copies made and sent to Solicitor's office for authentication.

Conference - Mr. Speh, Mr. Donovan and Dr. Price, on the Washington personnel survey.

Dr. McCall discussed with Mr. Donovan the proposed cereal compression program. Dr. McCall requested that we make available to him our files on the subject.

Mr. Gortner, National Research Council (EX 8100-Brl24) telephoned Mr. Speh stating that the Red Cross wished to ship peanut butter in 8 ounce cans, and asked for information on possible spoilage of the product when stored for 6 months to a year in temperatures up to as high as 120°. Wire was sent to Mr. Lynch requesting available information.

This afternoon a Mr. Fluharty of the Sugar Research Foundation called at the office to make inquiry of Mr. Donovan concerning Mr. H. S. Paine's background and experience in the Bureau, and in sugar research in general. Mr. Fluharty, in response to Mr. Donovan's question, stated that the Sugar Research Foundation is not a Government agency but rather is an association which is just being formed by the several sugar companies to go into research on sugar. He stated that they were making a general survey of persons who might be fitted to undertake the duties of Director of Research for the Foundation. ^{Donovan} ~~Min~~ gave Mr. Fluharty the general information with regard to Mr. Paine's record - how long he has been in the Bureau, that he had been Chief of the Carbohydrate Division, then Chief of the ACR Division, and that he had been responsible for the sugar research in the Bureau for a number of years. Mr. Fluharty must have made some previous inquiries in some quarter because he knew that Mr. Paine's salary was \$6500. He also stated that Mr. Paine knew nothing of this inquiry and had not been in contact with the Foundation and had made no application for this position. Mr. Fluharty did tell Mr. Donovan however, in response to his inquiry as to whether he knew Mr. Paine, that he did meet him and had lunch with him in New York a few days ago. For further information with regard to Mr. Paine's work in the sugar field, Mr. Donovan introduced Mr. Fluharty to Dr. C. A. Browne. (HADonovan)

Mr. J. Riley Rankin, President, United Tung Growers Association, Poplarville, Miss. came in to discuss with Mr. Speh the application of the association for priorities to build a solvent extraction mill to carry out the processes developed by ACR.

Mr. Noel came in to report return to active duty in the Bureau, in accordance with the plan of Dr. Auchter. The plan for Mr. Noel was discussed with him by Mr. Donovan and Mr. Speh. Mr. Speh stated that Dr. McPhee of the BAI had requested an extension of time for Noel to complete the manuscript on meat dehydration work and the question put up to Dr. Auchter but no answer received. Mr. Noel told Mr. Speh that his part of the manuscript was completed and when this information was relayed to Dr. McPhee he said this disposed of this problem. The second point which came up in connection with Mr. Noel was the request of Dr. McPhee that this Bureau furnish the money necessary to complete construction of the air flotation dehydrater designed by Mr. Noel. Mr. Speh had asked Mr. Smoot to determine whether it would be possible to use WRRL dehydration money to complete the dehydrater and to pay Mr. Noel's salary while carrying on investigations in dehydration. Mr. Smoot stated he had discussed the matter with Dr. Auchter who stated that while it might be legal to use the funds in this way, he thought it inadvisable to spend WRRL money so far away from the work. This disposed of this part of the problem. Mr. Speh reported this to Dr. McPhee. Mr. Speh then asked Mr. McPhee what they proposed doing with this dehydrater and he said he did not know but would take it up with Mr. Hankins. In the meantime, Mr. Speh is taking up the question of disposal with the WRRL. He has sent them a complete description of the dehydrater, its present state, etc., and has asked if they will be interested in having it dismantled and shipped on (a) loan; (b) purchase. The latter would require that the equipment be condemned, declared surplus property and appraised. The WRRL would then pay for it, have it dismantled, crated and shipped to Albany. Mr. Noel stated that he had been approached by the WFA processing and facilities branch for transfer to that branch. It was agreed that this Bureau would not interfere with such transfer if requested. Shortly after the conference with Mr. Noel, Mr. Speh was contacted by Mr. Howard of the above branch of WFA. Mr. Howard asked if this Bureau would agree to the transfer of Noel. It was stated we would have no objection and he would be available to report to WFA Wednesday morning; that this Bureau would then bill WFA for salary of Mr. Noel up to the time the necessary papers are executed.

Saturday, August 14, 1943

(Speh)

305

At Mr. Speh's request, Mr. Kramer of the Solicitor's office came over to this office to discuss the proposed testifying by Mr. von Loesecke on an interference case against the Vincent patent on Feed Yeast. Wire was sent to Mr. Paine requesting that they send copies of any records or correspondence which they might have on the application of Nolte and Von Loesecke for a patent in this field.

Bureau Chiefs' Meeting at 9:30; Dr. Auchter presiding. According to schedule, Mr. S. A. Rohwer, BE&PQ made a statement regarding the policy and experiences of that Bureau in examining products carrying a trade name, copyrighted name, or which were patented. In general, they try to avoid any reference to trade names. However, frequently the chemical name conveys no real information and the product cannot be bought under the chemical name, so they have no occasion to indicate the trade name. The problem was discussed from the public service patent and the assigned patent angle. Mr. Henley of BAI made a statement on the same subject. It was agreed that the BDI, BPI and this bureau were to be prepared to make a statement on this subject at the meeting of the Bureau Chiefs the third Tuesday in September. It was also brought out at the meeting that postal regulations prohibit reference to patented articles or trade names in Government publications sent under frank.

Dr. Auchter repeated the warning that the Bureau should not incur any obligation or agree to incur an obligation with the Office of Information unless the matter is first cleared through ARA. This policy is set up as a protection to each Bureau. The impression was that the Office of Information, instead of accepting reduction in appropriation was attempting to continue its full activity by obtaining financial assistance from the various bureaus. Dr. Auchter complimented Mr. Donovan's action in submitting to the ARA for approval before issuance Mr. Donovan's letter in response to the request of the Office of Information that this Bureau incur an obligation of \$144 for clip sheet service. Dr. Auchter also complimented Mr. Donovan in having sent to ARA the correspondence regarding the Victory Gardens. This matter is to be considered at a future meeting (Mr. Speh will write to the regional laboratories for a statement on experience and reaction). Dr. Auchter pointed out that the estimates for the 1945 budget were due at the Office of Budget and Finance on August 15. Also that the first supplemental estimates were due September 1. - There was considerable discussion on Budget and Finance Circular 709 regarding estimates for planning Post-War activities. These statements are due August 28. An agenda was prepared for the next meeting of the Bureau Chiefs. Someone from ~~each~~ the

Office of Information is to discuss clip sheets and information aids. Dr. Winters will discuss cooperative relationships between the Department and the State Exp. Stations. He will also have available lists of activities of the regional laboratories compared with the activities of the State Experiment Stations and other ARA agencies.

At the conclusion of the Bureau Chiefs' meeting, Mr. Speth discussed with Dr. Auchter desired action on several changes of status recommendations. Dr. Auchter said he was approving change of grade for Goldblatt, Tucker and Axelrod, effective September 1; that he had sent to Personnel Office his approval of change of status of Paine to Asst. Director, SRRL, and Hollingshead to Chief, ACR Division.

Edw. Gallihue, FDA (Ext. 3564) called to say that Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Dept. (Lt. Hurley) had called him regarding abrasive for cleaning engines. Reference was made to the samples of corncob meal and rice hulls that had been sent by Peoria. Hurley had evidently states that the corncob product was very promising. However, in the letter from Peoria to the Navy a statement was made as to the probable difficulty in getting a supply of this product due to "an important secret use by the Army of corncobs". Mr. Gallihue wishes to learn more of this use. This use is by Ordinance to polish bullets.

Conference in Dr. Woodbury's office of the Collaborating Dehydration Committee. Present : Magnus, Steibeling, Woodbury, Magoon and Speh.

It was agreed that each of the three bureaus, BHN&HE, BPISAE and BAIC would furnish a statement as to the lines of work on dehydration now being carried on; that there would be an interchange of progress reports, with the understanding that each bureau should feel free to comment on the lines of work being carried on and the results achieved. Dr. Magnus stated that they had been doing some work and had reason to believe that the rate of deterioration of dehydrated foods was greatly influenced by the amount of phosphorous present.

At Dr. Woodbury's suggestion, Mr. Speh called Mr. Hollingshead at New Orleans telling him that the recommendation that his status be changed to P-6, Chief of ACR Division, effective September 1st had been approved. Hollingshead stated that in spite of this he feels he wants to be transferred to Washington. He said he cannot remain in New Orleans. This is not due to conditions in the laboratory or relations to the personnel of the laboratory, but is really due to living conditions in New Orleans. Mr. Hollingshead agreed to send by air mail tonight, a statement indicating that he had been given the above information about change of status but that in spite of it he still wants to transfer. Mr. Speh suggested to Hollingshead that he discuss this question of a transfer with Mr. Paine, and that Mr. Paine should let us know the person whom he selects to take Mr. Hollingshead's place. Mr. Hollingshead said that Mr. Paine had already known of his decision. Mr. Speh immediately notified Dr. Woodbury of the above telephone conversation and Mr. Hollingshead's decision.

Mr. Speh contacted Mr. Hudgens of the FSA to inquire, as per suggestion made by Mr. Lynch, if it would be possible to secure funds under B&F Circular 709 for expansion of starch plant at Laurel.

Mr. Speh arranged for Mr. Noel to prepare a rough draft of patent application on Noel's air classifier dehydrater.

Mr. Speh sent to Mr. Kramer the file on the Vincent patent (Nolte-von Loesecke) to be used if deemed desirable in connection with the interference suit of the State of Florida against the Vincent patent.

Mr. Speh discussed with Directors of the four regional laboratories, via telephone, Budget & Finance Circular 709 which calls for estimates for planning a post-war public works program, and also asked each director to supply information requested in Dr Auchter's memo of August 19 in which he calls for statements on the post-war activities of agricultural research.

Dr. Lightbody stated over the telephone that a project had been set up of a low cost emergency housing program for shipyard workers which would be on two sides of the laboratory property, i. e., the side towards Berkeley and the property of the University. As a protection to the laboratory property it will be necessary to surround the grounds with a fence. Preliminary estimates of the cost of cyclone fence is \$2000.

Saturday, August 21, 1943

311

Mr. Harper of the Organization Division of the Office of Personnel discussed with Mr. Donovan and Mr. Speh the question of Mr. Paine's reallocation. Apparently the Office of Personnel had not a clear picture of what had been ~~was~~ accomplished in the decentralization move. It is felt that the matter has been cleared up and that the reallocation of Mr. Paine will now proceed. Upon instructions from Dr. Auchter, Mr. Speh wrote to Mr. Paine stating that his reallocation had been started and that it was now in the Office of Personnel.

Dr. May called this afternoon to say that Dr. Auchter had received a request through the Foreign Agr. Relations Office indicating that the State Department desired to secure Dr. Shollenberger of the NRRL to go to Palestine, Iran, Iraq and Egypt to see what those countries could do in the way of establishing baking establishments, and the possibility of substitutes for wheat flour. Apparently, the State Dept. desired Dr. Shollenberger for the duration of the war, but in any event, they would like him for one year. Dr. Auchter was anxious to get a very prompt response so Dr. May called Mr. Herrick direct (Dr. May had tried first to reach Mr. Donovan, but he was out of the office at the moment). Dr. May told Mr. Donovan that Mr. Herrick would send him a telegram as to whether or not Dr. Shollenberger is willing to accept such an assignment. Dr. May will of course send this Bureau a copy of the telegram as soon as he receives it. In his conversation with Mr. Herrick, Dr. May stated that Mr. Herrick had said that he felt that in view of this special emergency from a war standpoint, that the Bureau could probably not interpose objection, as the work in which Dr. Shollenberger is engaged is perhaps not as of direct concern to the war effort as this undertaking to which he is called.

Wednesday, August 25, 1943

(Donovan)

Dr. May telephoned Mr. Donovan at noon to say that he had received a telegraphic reply from Mr. Herrick with regard to the proposed Shollenberger release to the State Department for the work above described. Mr. Herrick stated Dr. Shollenberger is favorably inclined and will probably arrive in Washington Friday (Aug. 27) to discuss decision.

Mr. John Godston of FDA was in and discussed with Mr. Speh (1) program of study with the Stacom press. Mr. Speh explained that we were planning to conduct studies on alfalfa and vegetables - that there would be intervals when analyses and assays of the products from the press were being made, and during those days it would be possible to run other products which might be of interest to the Bureau or to the FDA. (2) Mr. Godston was interested in sweetpotato sirup and stated that he felt there was a good opportunity in the production of this product. However, he felt it was a mistake to try to produce a white product - that a product of lower grade so far as color was concerned would be entirely acceptable and much preferable so far as cost is concerned. Mr. Speh promised to see what information was available on work already done in the Bureau. (3) Mr. Speh arranged with Mr. Godston to confer with Mr. Senseman on work already done in the Bureau in connection with hydrolyzed vegetable proteins.

Mr. H. D. Pease, of the Pease Laboratories, New York, and Mr. Herbert Jamul, Chemical Products Corporation, Miami, Florida (Mr. Jamul, born in Estonia, educated in Germany and Finland and now in this country) called on Mr. Speh. These people are interested in a process which Mr. Jamul claims he has developed enabling him to produce an extremely highgrade coconut oil and highgrade coconut meal, the latter suitable for human consumption instead of being limited to cattle feed. They were interested in knowing if we could give them any assistance in determining the possibility of hydrogenation of this coconut oil and to evaluate the products in comparison with other hydrogenated products obtained from other vegetable oils and from other coconut oils. Mr. Speh explained that this would not be possible. However, if the Quartermaster Corps and Lend-Lease were interested, ~~and~~ as Mr. Jamul indicated, a letter from them to this Bureau requesting that we investigate, might be helpful.

Tucker was in and he was notified of the meeting in Dr. May's office at 11 o'clock on Thursday morning of the Alcohol Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speh called Dr. Wells to notify him that Kramer could leave Washington Monday morning, the 30th, to spend 2,3 or even 4 days in Philadelphia in conference with members

Wednesday, August 25 (continued)

314

of the staff to discuss current patent applications and proposed applications. This was agreeable to Dr. Wells who was also to make hotel reservations and to notify Mr. Speh by mail.

Mr. Speh attended the meeting of the Alcohol Advisory Committee to discuss the tests being carried on at the Schenley plant under the supervision of Mr. Tucker. It was decided that Tucker should first prepare a complete report of the work to date at the Schenley Plant, then that he would proceed to report to his official headquarters at Albany, Calif. He is to stop enroute at Owings Mills, Pa. plant of the Park and Tilford Company; at Louisville; and to spend a week at Peoria discussing the work with Hiram Walker, Singer of the Century Company, and the personnel of the Peoria Laboratory.

Mr. Tucker was invited by John Smith of the AAA to participate in a demonstration at the Park & Tilford plant at Brownsville, Pa. on Saturday, at which time 5 or 6 members of Congress are to be present. It was stated however that it would be better that Mr. Tucker prepare his report before leaving Washington.

Dr. May telephoned Mr. Speh to state that he was wiring to Mr. Herrick that the FAR were not contemplating bringing Mr. Shollenberger into Washington for a conference before his contemplated trip abroad.

Mr. G. K. Viall, Vice-President of the Chain Belt Company, Milwaukee, and Mr. Horace Smith came in to discuss our work on egg drying. They were particularly interested, as usual, in the lyphylyzing process.

Mr. Myers of the China Defense Supplies telephoned that he was preparing to leave the country at an early date and wished to bring over Mr. Frauman who would handle the matters that Mr. Myers had been handling and in which we were interested, namely, the production of motor fuel from vegetable oils. Mr. Myers stated that the Triploil Sales and Mfg. Company of Fort Worth, Texas, had notified the commission that they were ready to make a test run on rapeseed oil at their plant on September 15. Mr. Speh asked Mr. Myers if this was in conflict with the cooperation which has been started with the Black Gold Company of Chicago. Mr. Myers recognized a possible conflict but thought it would be well to let the Triploil Company go ahead. He asked if we were interested in sending someone from the NRRL. Mr. Speh promised to write to Mr. Herrick on the subject.

Mr. Eric Englund of FAR stated that he had a Mr. Langner of the Polish Government in his office. Mr. Langner is interested in the placing of some chemists to carry on studies on plastics. Mr. Speh referred him to Dr. Price, who subsequently reported that a statement is to be sent to the Bureau by Mr. Englund.

Mr. F.I.L. Lawrence, Chemical Engineer, Research Dept. of the Permutit Company called regarding the proposed memorandum of agreement with his company. Mr. Speh explained that the agreement is now in the Solicitor's office for clearance.

Special

Bureau Chiefs' Meeting. Dr. Auchter presiding.

(1) Suggested letter for the Secretary's signature addressed to the Director of the Budget, Vice-President Wallace and Speaker Rayburn, submitting a proposed bill wherein it is proposed that a cash reward \$50, or even up to \$1000 - \$50,000 the maximum to be paid by the Department in any one year - to be paid to Department employees having meritorious suggestions which will increase the efficiency of operation of the Department and will also cover patents assigned to the Secretary. There was considerable discussion and it was finally decided that Dr. Auchter would point out that the agencies within the ARA did not favor the principle of awarding cash awards.

(2) Dr. Auchter announced that Thatcher was made Chairman of the Departmental Community Chest Campaign; that the various agencies in the Department are being organized into groups, ARA constituting one group, Dr. Fracker was made Chairman of the Committee for the ARA group. Each Bureau Chief will act as Vice-Chairman representing his Bureau; the Bureau Chief may designate someone to take active charge within the Bureau.

(3) At the suggestion of Mr. Jump, Dr. Auchter or Mr. Cardon may approve excess cost or extra-fare transportation for personnel within the ARA agencies. This is not in conflict with the present regulation permitting the payment of extra fare where a saving can be shown.

(4) Discussion was held on the proposal of R.W. Moore that an employees' newspaper within the Department be established. Consensus of opinion among the Bureau chiefs was that those employees who had been approached were not enthusiastic about it and some even did not favor it. It was felt that the shortage of paper and the pressure of other work made it inopportune to start such a program at this time. Each bureau chief was to write direct to Mr. Moore, expressing his opinion.

(5) There was a brief discussion on the report submitted by a committee of business managers representing those bureaus within the ARA having a direct interest in the operation at Beltsville Research Center. Copy of the report is to be sent to each bureau chief.

Mr. Myers of the China Defense Supplies, Inc. brought in Mr. George B. Fraumann to introduce him to Mr. Speh. Mr. Myers is leaving this country for China very shortly and Mr. Fraumann will carry on the work which Mr. Myers has been conducting in connection with the production of motor fuel from vegetable oils.

Max Phillips was in to discuss the question of his finding a transfer to some other position. Dr. Phillips stated that he was disappointed to find that he was being transferred to Mr. Dawson's Division of the SRRL but Mr. Paine indicated that this was done only because of lack of sufficient funds in the ACR. Dr. Phillips also indicated that as all of his equipment had been shipped to Peoria, in the absence of funds in the ACR to buy additional equipment was a handicap. He stated that the reception at the SRRL was extremely satisfactory, that the attitude of all the personnel was very kind. However, living conditions at New Orleans were such that he could not possibly find any place to keep his family. Dr. Phillips apparently holds no resentment against anyone in the bureau or the department.

Mr. Speh attended a conference in Dr. Auchter's office to discuss the appropriations for Koh-saghys, Goldenrod and Cryptostegia for the balance of 1944 and for 1945. Increases are being requested by BPI and Forest Service. This Bureau however is not asking for any increases.

Mr. J. W. Thompson and Mr. K. Schroeder, representatives of the Fats and Oils Branch, Industrial Oils Division, FDA called to see Mr. Speh. They stated that the Tung Solvent Corporation of Bogalusa, La. has made application for priorities for a tung nut solvent extraction plant and wanted to know the reaction of this Bureau regarding the value of the process to be installed. Request referred to H.S. Paine for recommendation. (See memo of 8/30/43)

Dr. May telephoned Mr. Donovan that he was approving the functionary chart of BAIC, but questions the advisability of showing the Microbiological Division as it appears in view of the proposed separation of the activities of this Division by which the projects will be divided between the Southern and Western Laboratories, effective the beginning of the next fiscal year.

note of C. T. Speck
acting chief
during Dr. Krumbein's
illness. (September)

September

Thursday, September 2, 1943

67 (Donovan)

321

Dr. May called Mr. Donovan this morning to say that Mr. J. B. Thomas of Mr. Wyckoff's office (FDA) had telephoned him to ask if it would be possible to have Dr. Mottern accompany him (Mr. Thomas) to Salem, Ohio. There is an apple dehydration plant at Salem and they are putting in new equipment. Dr. May said he understood that the FDA's interest in this was due to the fact that the production of this plant was probably going to lend lease purposes. In view of the interest of the ERRL in apple utilization research, Dr. May felt that the Bureau could, if we wished to, approve Mottern's going to the plant with Mr. Thomas. Mr. Donovan talked to Dr. Wells over the telephone and he agreed that it would be all right for Mr. Mottern to accompany Mr. Thomas to Salem. It was understood from Dr. May that probably one day would be sufficient for an inspection of the plant. Mr. Donovan called Dr. May back on the phone so that he could advise Mr. Thomas to get in touch with Dr. Wells, or Dr. Mottern through Dr. Wells, to arrange the details of the trip.

Conference to discuss a proposed program on research on dried eggs was called by Mr. Marston. This conference was evidently called to discuss the program proposed by Dean Buchanan to Dr. Auchter some time ago. Mr. Speh attended for a few minutes but because of other appointments had to return to his office.

Mr. Ferris of the U. S. Sugar Corporation was in to discuss the latest revision of the cooperative agreement between various bureaus of the ARA and the U.S. Sugar Corporation. A memo to Dr. Auchter on the subject is being prepared.

Several long distance telephone conversations were held with Mr. Lawrence of the Permutit Company on the proposed cooperative agreement on the processing of sorghum sirup by ion exchange resins. The entire discussion was concerned with the proposed patent laws. The position that this bureau is taking is that our standard patent clause must be used.//Mr. Speh talked with Mr. Clarke of the Bureau of Mines regarding their request for an arrangement for a loan of certain equipment from the NRRL. Mr. Herrick had indicated what pieces of equipment could be loaned to them could not be loaned for the duration. Mr. Speh explained this to Mr. Clarke and it was agreed that those pieces of equipment which Mr. Herrick should spare would be loaned to the Bureau of Mines with the understanding that they would be subject to recall at any time that Mr. Herrick found he needed the equipment.

Mr. Speh talked with Mr. Cardon on phone who agreed it would be satisfactory to wire Mr. Paine to proceed with the sorghum juice work under the Permutit memo of agreement as proposed, with explanation made by Mr. Speh to Mr. Cardon. (Wire sent to Paine)

Monday, September 6, 1943

(Speh)

323

Mr. L. S. Goodman, FDA, conferred with Mr. Speh on the preparation of a schedule of various types of packages which would be required to handle the 1944-45 gum naval stores crop. It was decided that this bureau would do nothing towards acquiring the information pending the effort of the Commodity Credit to prepare such a schedule

Conference with Dr. Woodbury, Dr. Magoon and Mr. Speh on the compression program. Dr. Magoon submitted a proposed program of work under the compression project. Mr. Speh sent a copy of this statement and of the actual breakdown to Dr. Swenson for comment.

Mr. Speh attended a conference called by Mr. Palen of the FDA to discuss the suggestion that further examination be made of the use of green paper for the packaging of foods. Dr. Esselin of Massachusetts State College attended the meeting. Without notice, the time of the conference was set up half-an-hour later originally scheduled and Mr. Speh had to leave the meeting before the conference got underway. However, he did arrange to have Dr. Woodbury attend. Dr. Woodbury will prepare a report of the conference.

Mr. Speh attended a meeting in the Secretary's office along with the other bureau chiefs to discuss the proposed plans for the War Bond Drive and the War Chest Drive.

Meeting of Bureau Chiefs; Mr. Cardon presiding. Mr. Hambidge reported on the relationship of the agencies within the ARA to the Office of Information, particularly in connection with the billing of the various bureaus by the Office of Information for certain services. It was arranged that a representative of the Office of Information would appear before the next bureau chiefs meeting to discuss in detail the various questions which have arisen. In order to indicate to Dr. Auchter the position of the various bureaus in regard to the payment of the clip sheet bill sent to each bureau by the Office of Information, those bureaus which have not indicated a willingness to pay were asked if they would. Mr. Speh indicated that this bureau would go along with the other bureaus and pay the \$144 if we were permitted to do so under our budget setup.//

Dr. Winters submitted a statement showing the cooperation within the Department with State Agricultural Experiment Stations, as measured by joint publications. It was suggested that each bureau check as to completeness and correctness of the list. Dr. Winters also submitted an index of relationships of research in the four regional laboratories and other agencies of the U. S. D.A. and each bureau was asked to check for completeness. Apparently, a Dr. Weiss of the National Planning Association is contacting various bureaus to discuss post-war planning. Inquiry by the Office of the ARA elicited the information that it is satisfactory to talk to Dr. Weiss on the subject.//

Mr. Cardon read a letter from T. Roy Reid in which it was asked that each bureau give what assistance it could in making available space for the Graduate School.//

A proposed letter to be issued by the Department Librarian regarding the loan of books as working tools was read and it was decided that Mr. Shaw would be requested to submit to each bureau the list of books which he thinks should not be held by that bureau as working tools, but should be immediately returned to the Library.//

Mr. Schoenhals reviewed various department regulations of relationship of department employees and commercial concerns. He referred to Paragraph 643 of the Dept. Regulations in the old edition. Apparently this paragraph has been omitted from the new edition of the Department Regulations. The sum and substance

was that commercial concerns offering funds to be used in carrying out cooperative agreements should deposit those funds in the U. S. Treasury for expenditure by the respective agency under the cooperative agreement. However, if the commercial concern wished to spend its own funds it could do so. //

Mr. Cardon indicated that we would probably shortly receive a request to compile a list of accomplishments by appropriation items similar to the list prepared last year, which was entitled "Current Activities and Selected Examples of Recent Accomplishments".

Dr. Mordecai Ezekiel discussed with Mr. Speh the proposed post-war progra, for rural industries, as set up by the Intra-departmental Committee. Dr. Ezekiel was interested in the Bureau's proposal that a survey be made to determine possible establishment of rural industries to implement the results obtained by the research carried out at the regional laboratories. Dr. Ezekiel agreed to visit the NRRL to discuss this program.

Mr. Speh discussed with Dr. Woodbury the results of his conference with Sickles, Coe, Riemenschneider and Esselin on the use of green paper for food packaging. Apparently the suggestion that further study be made on this will be rejected.

Tung oil conference at 2 P. M. with Mr. Thompson, WPB, Dr. McKinney, and Marshall Ballard, the latter representing the Tung Nut Growers. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the solvent method of extraction as developed by Agr. Chem. Research Division, and also to discuss the request by the Tung Nut Growers for priority for material for the new plant. Approximately 170 tons of steel will be required. In addition, they have requested financing by the Government to the extent of \$350,000. Mr. Thompson stated that there was about 25,000,000 pounds of tung oil on hand now which would be sufficient to meet minimum armed force requirements for two years. He further stated that he thought it would be possible to bring in 10,000,000 pounds a year from South America. He also indicated the possibility of flying in possibly 6,000,000 pounds from China. It was estimated that the 1943 domestic crop would yield about 3,000,000 pounds of oil, that the 1944 crop will be about 10,000,000 pounds. It was Mr. Thompson's opinion that there was an adequate supply of tung oil without worrying about increasing the yield by adopting the new process.

Mr. Speh attended the meeting of a special group of the Industrial Agricultural Committee and the Rural Industry Committee, formerly headed by George Farrell and the latter by Mordecai Ezekiel. These two committees are operating under the Intra-Bureau Committee on post-war planning. Mr. Speh has agreed to serve on the working committee in Washington for these two groups. Mr. Ray Smith presided as Chairman, and stated that new funds were available to carry on any work; that the contribution of the various agencies would be in the form of personnel and advice. Mr. Speh pointed out the possible contribution of the regional laboratories in preparing surveys on the manufacture of products developed by the research work at the laboratories, showing raw material requirements, location of raw materials, surface requirements, character and amount of water, and the class of labor required. Such information on each potential industry would serve as a yardstick in determining the desirability of attempting to develop that particular industry within a community which will need post-war rehabilitation.

Mr. Lynch called Mr. Cheatham on Long Distance phone from Mr. Speh's office (Speh and Donovan present during conversation) regarding the cotton cutter being constructed by Sprout-Waldron Company, Muncie, Pa. Mr. Lynch asked Mr. Cheatham to call him back on Friday at noon to report on the exact status of the work and expenditure of funds on this project to date.

Mr. Cheatham called Mr. Lynch, as arranged on Thursday. He stated that the estimated expenditures to date on construction of the cotton cutter, including obligations already incurred for materials ordered, amounted to \$10,500, which is pretty close to half of the contract - \$29,500. - It was brought out that the Sprout Waldron Company has declined other contracts, due to the acceptance of constructing the cutter for the SRRL, and that the Chinese Government has told us they will purchase a similar machine just as soon as their plans for getting equipment have been completed; however, it is thought that the Chinese Government should not go ahead with this until we have tried the cutter out. Mr. Cheatham was of the opinion that Sens trip to Charlotte should be held up until this whole question is straightened out with Mr. Pierson of the WPB. (Jacobs) *ed*

Mr. Speh attended a conference on the proposed motor fuel program and memorandum of understanding between the National Bureau of Standards and this Bureau. Dr. H. C. Dickinson, Chief, Heating and Power Division of the Bureau of Standards presided. Present: Dr. Langford, Dr. Langlykke and Mr. Wiebe of the NRRL; Messrs. Brooks, Bruce and several other members of the Bureau of Standards; Mr. Lamie representing the OEW. In the afternoon, the conference was joined by Mr. Taub, engineer of the OEW. It was recognized that this Bureau is interested in the production of motor fuels and producer gas from agricultural materials, and that the Bureau of Standards is interested in developing methods of test for fuels and design of engines using them. Suggestions were made on the modification of the proposed memorandum of understanding which had been prepared and submitted by the Northern Regional Research Laboratory.

Chief of Division
Archived
Revised
Col. Harry Plotz, Army Medical School, Army Medical Center, and Dr. Stevens conferred with Mr. Speh on the request of the Medical School that this Bureau undertake a study of the removal or denaturation of the egg white now found in typhus vaccine. Mr. Speh promised to discuss this matter further with Dr. Auchter to see what arrangements could be made to carry out the request of Colonel Plotz.

Mr. Speh attended a meeting of the Inter-Bureau Committee on Post War Programs to discuss the program for industrial development in rural areas. Ray Smith, BAE, presiding. The conference was a discussion between Mr. George Farrell and Mr. Mordecai Ezekiel, each submitting a statement of a proposed program. No definite decision was reached.

Mr. Speh, accompanied Dr. May and Mr. Lynch to a conference on the tire cord work in the Pentagon Bldg. In attendance was S. P. Thatcher and T. J. Newton of the Rubber Branch, Army Supply, and Major R. E. Bolton and Capt. Baxter Wood, both of Ordinance. Mr. Lynch presented some figures showing tensile strength and elongation of some of the cotton cords prepared at the Southern Laboratory. These figures were very impressive and aroused considerable interest. Mr. Lynch stated that he was on his way to Akron and Mansfield, Ohio, and Detroit, Michigan, on the tire cord work. Mr. Newton suggested that Mr. Lynch bring to the attention of the people at Akron his work on the 0.29 guage cotton cord.

Conference in Dr. Woodbury's office.

(1) Dr. Woodbury, Mr. Marston and Mr. Speh discussed the Rile-Coe paper for packaging. No conclusions were reached as to desirability of setting up a project.

(2) Conference - Dr. Woodbury, Mr. Godston and Mr. Speh on the Stacom press. It was agreed that Mr. Stacom could use the press for running ~~of~~ materials not within the projects of the WRRL, provided it would not interfere with any of the WRRL work, and the WRRL would not be expected to carry on any studies of the products obtained. Also, Mr. Speh is to furnish Mr. Godston with (a) a statement as to the method for the determination of glutamic acid, and also technique of the separation of the acid commercially; (b) Dr. Woodbury wishes information which can be used by the FDA in the preparation of specifications for compression of dried eggs.

Conference at 2 P.M. with Mr. J. E. Holveck of the Worthington Pump Company (Stacom pressmfrs.), Mr. Godston and Mr. Speh. Discussion of the progress made in the testing of the Stacom press. It was admitted that the information to date did not permit any decision as to the value of the press. Mr. Holveck who is the engineer for the Worthington Pump Co. said that ~~the~~ runs had been made on alfalfa, chard, lettuce, spinach, carrot tops, and hemlock bark. Certain shortcomings of the press were discussed and Mr. Holveck proposes to attempt to correct these. In general, fibrous products work better than non-fibrous products.

Congressman Somers (N.Y.) came in to discuss with Mr. Speh the question of entering into the business of dehydration of vegetables and drying of eggs. Mr. Speh explained the work of this Bureau and further stated that the Bureau does not carry on work on examination of plants. Mr. Speh referred Congressman Somers to Mr. Robt. Armstrong to discuss dehydration of vegetables, and to Mr. Termohlen to discuss dried eggs.

Mr. Speh had a conference with Mr. Cardon regarding the U. S. Sugar agreement. With minor changes, Mr. Cardon is to have the memorandum rewritten and the copies sent to Mr. Ferris..

Mr. Speh had a conference with Dr. Woodbury, Mr. Sickles and Mr. Nearm of Sickles' office, to discuss the request that investigation be made as to the value of the Rile-Coe paper for food packages. No agreement was reached.

Mr. Speh and Mr. Donovan talked to Dr. Swenson on long distance phone explaining the request for the release of Winfield Sylvester, glass blower at the Albany Laboratory. It was explained that in view of the circumstances it would be deemed desirable that we agree to the release. After discussion with Mr. Brown of the Civil Service Commission, who in turn contacted Major Ferber of the War Department, it was agreed that we would release Mr. Sylvester and that the War Department would make a sincere effort to have him returned to us at the earliest possible daye, preferably, one of the first glass blowers to be released. Also that Mr. Sykvester's services would be available to the WRRL for short periods to meet emergencies.

Friday, September 17, 1943

(Speh)

334

Mr. Speh visited the ERRL and conferred with Dr. Lee T. Smith on the lactic acid work and the encroachment on some of our work by the Bureau Dairy Industry. Mr. Speh also discussed with Mr. Beebe the results of the hemlock bark tannin work. Mr. Beebe stated that he felt that the Oakex Company had fulfilled their contact to the best of their ability, based upon the amount of tannin material available in the bark sent to them. Mr. Speh also discussed with Dr. Mottern the question of the use of apples and apple products for the apple sirup work. Dr. Mottern reported briefly on the conference which was held in Washington some time ago, at which time the ceiling prices for apples were discussed.

Mr. Speh had a conference with Dr. Woodbury and Mr. May regarding the conducting of certain tests to evaluate the Rile-Coe paper. The Lend Lease is asking that we evaluate the paper as packaging material for foods. Dr. Proctor of the Office of the Quartermaster asked that we evaluate the Rile-Coe paper as an envelope for fresh vegetables and fruits. Mr. Speh stated that the WRRL was studying packaging materials and packages for dehydrated fruits and vegetables and eggs, and that selected materials of the Rile-Coe paper, if submitted by the Lend Lease could be included in the packaging studies. Mr. Speh stated that the Bureau was not at this time conducting any research along the lines suggested by Dr. Proctor.

Bureau Chiefs' Meeting. Mr. Cardon presiding.
Following subjects discussed:

- (1) Budget and Finance Circular 714 giving the schedule of budget hearings.
- (2) Statement as to the creation of a committee on awards for employees for the Department, as required by general Departmental Circular 11.
- (3) Mr. Cardon reported that he had conferred with Mr. Shaw, Librarian, and Mr. Shaw is to furnish a statement on the character of the books which he feels might be considered as working tools.
- (4) A brief statement was made by Mr. Speh and by Mr. McCall on the method of handling proprietary products and patented materials in publications. Mr. Speh stated that the Bureau's work had not been seriously impeded by the present regulations. However, under war conditions he felt that any product which promised to assist the war should be investigated, whether patented or not.
- (5) Mr. Cardon announced that on October 15 Mr. Hilbrun and others from the Solicitor's Office would appear before the Bureau Chiefs to discuss patents. It was requested that anyone having any suggestions of subjects to be discussed send a memorandum to Dr. Cardon.
- (6) A brief statement was made by Mr. Speh on the Victory Gardens.
- (7) Mr. McBride announced that the various agencies would shortly receive a list of publications and books now available through the office of the Alien Property Custodian.
- (8) Mr. Cardon discussed proposed legislation regarding the disposal of farm products. Apparently there is a lack of understanding of the proper procedure in disposing of farm products, such as a bushel of tomatoes, or a half bushel of potatoes, without complicated procedure. It is planned to have a review made of all departmental regulations and a summary issued.
- (9) It was suggested that representatives of the Workmen's Compensation Commission examine into the health hazards of Government employees and make recommendations for changes.

Wednesday, September 22, 1943

337

Conference with Mr. Cardon, Mr. Salter and Mr. Miller (BAI), and Mr. Speh on the proposed memorandum of understanding with the U. S. Sugar Corporation. The latest revision was reviewed and it was agreed that copy would be sent to the U. S. Sugar Corporation, through Mr. Ferris, by the office of the Administrator, ARA.

Mr. Miller of the Appalachian Apple Association was in to discuss with Mr. Speh the subject of denaturing apple sirup to be used for tobacco and other non-food purposes.

C. F. SPEH

September 22, 1943

Record of telephone conversation - Dr. David J. Price and Mr. Frank Mascia, Federal Housing Authority, Coordinator for Region 10 (Calif.) - Ext. 2196 - regarding Richmond Shipyards, Albany, Berkeley Housing Project - Sept. 22, 1942.

Mr. Mascia advised that the Washington office did not have any direct information regarding the proposed right of way over Western Regional Research Laboratory property as referred to in letters of September 9 from Dr. Swenson. He stated the full responsibility for this project (1200 houses or more) was under Langdon W. Post, Director of Region 10, Federal Housing Authority, 785 Market Street, San Francisco (Tel. Yukon 1888).

Mr. Mascia will wire Mr. Post today suggesting he make contact with Dr. Swenson to acquaint Swenson with proposed plans. Mascia also suggested we advise Swenson to make contact with Mr. Post or Asst. Director for Development Arthur Gallion. Mr. Speh wired Dr. Swenson today to this effect.

Note: Mr. Mascia advised this was a large housing project for Richmond Shipyards and the Albany-Berkeley site was only one available. Federal Housing Authority has encountered considerable opposition from Berkeley people to this low cost housing project. He advises that FHA will proceed in regular way to get permission for right of way from Department. The War Act gives FHA this power.

cc for Dr. Skinner

Mr. Seegrist discussed the question of abandonment of Ventre, et al patent application on recovery of aconitic acid. It was agreed that the Solicitor's office should prepare a statement in rebuttal of the claim rejections of the Patent Office on this patent, and in the meantime, a statement would be requested of Ventre as to the reason for suggestion abandonment of the patent application.

Dr. Blanck was in to discuss dehydration problems in general. He stated that they had about decided to use the brine peeling when it was found that even the WRRL was doubtful as to its application. It was suggested that possibly a combination of brine and lye could be used, and a wire was sent to the WRRL requesting data on this method. It was Dr. Blanck's opinion that dehydration of vegetables, other than potatoes and soup materials, was only an emergency and that after the war canning, freezing and fresh vegetables would replace dehydrated products.

Dr. McFarlane was in to discuss the budget and the program of work of the Microbiological Section at the ERRL. Dr. McFarlane was told that there was no source of extra funds and it would be necessary that he keep within the limits of the funds set up.

Conference with Mr. Schoenhals and Mr. Donovan exploring the best procedure in the case of Wilfrid Place, now stationed at Salinas. Later, Mr. Donovan discussed the problem with Mr. Cardon and it was decided that the decision should be up to the Bureau as to requesting the Department to request the State Department to ask for an extension of passport and visa. To establish the current status, a long distance phone call was made to Dr. Wells, at which time it developed that he had no more information, other than was had here in Washington, beyond the fact that Place had contacted the Belgian Consul in San Francisco. No information as to results was available. It was decided that the responsibility for procuring the extension was that of Mr. Place and a wire was sent to Dr. Wells as follows:

"Reurtel twentysecond Bureau will not recommend that Department present Place case to State Department responsible for extension passport and visa. Must rest with Place. Will wire him Saturday Salinas as to continuation of Place on rolls.

An informal conference was held in Dr. Auchter's conference room to permit Mr. Murray to report on the Koh-saghys rubber in Russia.

Conference with Dr. Winters and Dr. May to discuss the Collaborators' Committee plan proposed by Call at the Spring Experiment Station Directors' meeting. Dr. Winters feels that the present arrangement, built around the work of the Northern Regional Laboratory is wrong. He feels that a program should be built around the broad problems of the region.

Mr. Herrick called to give preliminary data on estimated amount of lactose which will be needed to produce the desired volume of penicillin. This information was conveyed to Dr. May.
(6-8 mill. # lactose)

notes of W. W. Skinner
Oct 4)

October

Bureau Chiefs' Meeting. Mr. Cardon, Presiding. 4

(1) Discussion of the Kilgore Committee Resolution calling for war mobilization of research facilities and personnel. In a letter addressed to the Secretary, Senator Kilgore had requested assistance in the survey to be made by the committee. Mr. Cardon read a reply prepared by the Secretary to Senator Kilgore, in which he indicates that this is impossible at present. (Copy of Secretary's ltr given to Dr. S.)

(2) On next Tuesday, October 12, the Bureau is to submit to Dr. Auchter a statement reflecting our view of the possible shift of emphasis of the work of the Bureau on immediate post-war activities. By this post-war activity is meant approximately five years after the war. This should reflect the steps being taken for the readjustment of our work and its impact on post-war problems and what the Bureau can contribute in meeting post-war problems.

(3) The attendance of personnel of the various bureaus to scientific societies was discussed. Reference was made to Secretary's Memo 997 and supplements, and to Dept. Circular No. 7. There was no clear cut division as to the policy beyond the statement that any attendance at any meeting should be made upon the basis of war contribution. In the preparation of LA's for attendance at meetings, in the preparation of requests to be submitted to Dr. Auchter's office for authorization to send more than three men to any one meeting, a definite statement should be made as to the Society's functions, the purpose of the program of the meeting, why it is necessary that the bureau send anyone to the meeting and why the particular individual has been selected. Mr. Cardon pointed out that effective December 10 he expects very stringent regulations to be put into operation regarding travel.

(4) A representative from the Solicitor's office will be present at the next Bureau Chiefs' meeting to discuss patents.

(5) There was a general discussion as to the value of personnel training, so far as the ARA agencies are concerned. Mr. Cardon pointed out that there seemed to be two types of training, one in the job instruction, job relations and job method series, and one a dissemination of information from above and below. Farm Credit Administration has a personnel

man (\$4600.00) who has been offered a position with one of the other war agencies at \$5600. Mr. Cardon sounded out the group as to whether they were interested in taking on such a man for the ARA. There seemed to be no particular inclination for this.

(6) Mr. Cardon referred to the series of conferences on Agricultural Outlook.

(7) Mr. Cardon referred to Budget & Finance Circular 717 regarding Pullman reservations.

(8) Dr. Fracker discussed briefly the Community War Fund drive stating that the Bureau Chiefs are Vice Chairmen and that each bureau chief should select an acting Vice-Chairman. 82 keymen have already been selected in the agencies of the ARA. The allotment of ARA is \$27,500, and Mr. Fracker suggested that the bureaus consider setting up some type of ^{collecting} ~~fixing~~ agency in the bureaus to receive salary cash payments on pay days.

(8) Mr. McBride stated that he had some additional supplemental lists of the foreign patents taken over by the Alien Property Custodian. These lists include proteins, naval stores, and ammonium nitrate.

Thursday, October 7, 1943

344

Conference in Dr. Skinner's office - Dr. Wells, Dr. Browne, Dr. H. Stevens, Mr. Speh, Mr. Holman, Mr. Senseman, Mr. Donovan and Dr. Skinner.

Subject - consideration of preparation plan for statement on post war planning philosophy. After discussing this problem from various angles, it was proposed that Mr. Speh, Mr. Holman and Mr. Senseman get together and prepare a resume of the ideas proposed. It was decided to have a further conference on this matter in Dr. Skinner's office Saturday morning, October 9 at 10:30 o'clock.

Conference with Mr. Noel and Mr. Speh regarding the patent application of Mr. Noel for air flotation meat and vegetable dehydrator. Although the request for application has been sent in stating that the patent was to be assigned to the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Seegrist of the Solicitor's office had indicated to Mr. Noel that Mr. Noel might be entitled to commercial rights, reserving shop rights only to the Government. After discussion and pointing out to Mr. Noel the situation and the fact that he had been working on dehydration problems, and even at the time when he believed that he had conceived the idea, he was on dehydration work, Mr. Noel agreed that he would rescind from his position and would agree to have the patent assigned to the Secretary.

Meeting in Dr. Skinner's office of Messrs. Speh, Holman and Senseman to further consider statement on post war planning philosophy due in Dr. Auchter's office Tuesday, October 12.

Tuesday, October 12, 1943

345a

Dr. Auchter called at Dr. Skinner's office to discuss a few matters of general interest.

Mr. Paine, SRRL, called on phone to discuss conversation which Lynch had had with Speh about charging travel expenses by either Lynch or Paine for work of the ACR or NS Divisions. Lynch had received a written expression from Speh's apprehension about the coalescing of the two funds. Dr. Skinner explained to both Lynch and Paine that they had misunderstood Speh's position. Paine wanted to know if he was going to be relieved of all responsibility for the work under ACR and Dr. Skinner told him that such was not the case. In fact, he read to him a recent statement received from Dr. Auchter calling a meeting of a Sorghum Conference at 10 o'clock on November 1 and told Mr. Paine that he expected him to come on here to make such a report, and if necessary to give further consideration to the \$65,000 which has been approved by in our budget at the recent hearing before the Budget Committee.

"Conference on Sorghum -

On Monday, November 1, at ten o'clock, in the ARA conference room, I am planning to have a conference on sorghum. I would like to have you present, together with such members of your staff as you may care to bring. At that time I would like to have the season's complete results on sorghum so that we can present our findings to Judge Tarver.

Memo signed by E. C. Auchter
Res. Adm."

October 21, 1943C. F. Speh

Mr. Speh conferred with Mr. William H. Maguire and Mr. Sidney Towner of the Tung Solvent Milling Corporation when they discussed the application of a group represented by Mr. Maguire and Mr. Towner for material to build an extraction plant.

Mr. Speh stated the position of the Bureau as being willing to furnish all information available on the details of the solvent extraction method developed by the Bureau, but that the Bureau could not go beyond this.

Bureau Chiefs' Meeting, Dr/ Auchter's office. (Mr. Spoh and Dr. Skinner attended)

(1) Discussion of patents; Messrs. Hilbun, Koebel, Foss and Kramer of the Solicitor's office participating. The following items were discussed:

- Rights of the Department and employee
- Effect of publication upon patent application
- Foreign patent rights of the employee
- Departmental procedure in preparation and handling of patent application
- General information

It was suggested that a patent manual be prepared. A committee to consider and handle this was appointed. Mr. McBride, chairman; Mr. Rohwer of E&PQ; representative of Plant Industry to be named later.

(2) Announcement of conference to discuss letter-writing.

(3) Extension work and whether it should be continued as at present setup or whether Bureau representatives be appointed for special extension work.

Friday, October 29, 1943

349

Dr. Frary, the new President of the AOAC came in to discuss with Dr. Skinner matters relating to his new office.

Dr. Skinner attended the meeting of the Feed Officials. There was some sharp debate on the President's veto of the Bill which has unanimously passed the Congress which proposes to regulate the sale of surplus fertilizer materials by Government agencies including the War Dept. The President vetoed the bill because it included the TVA in its provisions. Dr. MacIntire of Tennessee made a rather spirited defense of the work of the TVA and pointed out that of its own volition TVA was not in the business of selling ammonium nitrate or other nitrogen compounds.

Dr. L. H. Almy called.

Dr. H. E. Barnard called about a recommendation for a man to work with his Division of the Man Power Commission in evaluating the appeals for deferment of chemists and chemical engineers.

Dr. Wells and Mr. Donovan attended the hearings before the Budget Bureau for special funds for emergency rubber work.

Mr. Paine arrived from New Orleans and went over the report on the sorghum work for the present calendar year, ~~and~~ with Dr. Skinner and Mr. Speh, in preparation for the conference which has been called by Dr. Auchter for 10 o'clock Monday morning.

November

Monday, November 1, 1943

351

Conference at 10 A. M. in Dr. Auchter's office regarding sorghum program; representatives BPI present, also Mr. Speh, Mr. Paine and Dr. Skinner. The reports submitted by each of the bureaus represented at the conference were unsatisfactory and inconclusive and there is some doubt as to whether Dr. Auchter will be able to convince Judge Tarver that the \$65,000 which we are asking for in the 1945 budget will be approved.

Bureau Chiefs' Meeting in Dr. Auchter's office at 9:30 A. M.

Mr. Salisbury of the Office of Information discussed the production of films and exhibit material, and pointed out that in the last appropriation bill there was inserted a proviso permitting the Secretary to transfer from the several bureaus of the Department not to exceed \$300,000 to finance this work. He pointed out the great need for continuing the development of films as the modern method of selling the Department's work. He stated that when a film was ordered we should always expect to buy at least about 100 prints which cost approximately \$10.00 each. He said that less than 100 prints did not give proper distribution, particularly if the film is to be used in the 16,000 motion picture houses in the United States. He read off the allotments that were assessed against the bureaus last year for motion pictures and the charge against the BAIC was \$1500.00. This was the largest assessment against any bureau. This seemed kind of queer to Dr. Skinner. Several of Mr. Salisbury's colleagues discussed the work of the Office of Information. /✓Dr. Auchter discussed the matter of service in Alaska and asked for suggestions from those bureaus interested in the service.

// Deferments were discussed and the following points made.

- (1) It was indicated that the future policy might be to grant no deferments to men under 38.
- (2) No protests are to be filed with regard to non-keymen.
- (3) We may be permitted to file requesting a 60-day stay of deferment.

The Patent Committee was announced as follows:

Gordon W. McBride, Chairman

Frank P. Cullinan, BPISAE

Sievert A. Rohwer, E&PQ

George W. Trayer, FS

Dr. Swenson called Dr. Skinner on long distance telephone regarding a request from the Regional Civil Service Commission Office at San Francisco (Mr. Krantz, regional supervisor). The Man-Power Commission has been in touch with the regional C.S.C. and is attempting to have representatives from all governmental agencies sit in

at a meeting this afternoon to answer certain questions about **what** work is being conducted, is the work increasing or decreasing, can the work be done **elsewhere**, what place does it have in the war effort, how essential, how urgent, are we now handicapped because of personnel shortage, do we need all of our men, are all of our people busy, etc. This information is requested in the form of a written statement, and Dr. Swenson questioned the advisability of this commitment. He said he thought a request of this type should come from Washington. Dr. Skinner acquiesced in this opinion and instructed Dr. Swenson to attend the meeting but not to give any more than a factual statement, and by no means to express an opinion about policy unless first cleared through Dr. Auchter's office.

Dr. Skinner immediately contacted Dr. Auchter, explaining the above situation and Dr. Auchter said unless otherwise informed, the above instructions to Dr. Swenson should stand.

A preliminary conference in Dr. Skinner's office with Dr. Wells, Mr. Senseman and Mr. Speh regarding the conflict of work on lactose and other milk byproducts with the BDI hearing set for 9:30 Wednesday morning.

Conference in Dr. Winters' office regarding the conflict of work in the industrial utilization of milk products between the BDI and the ERRL. There were present from BDI - Mr. O. E. Reed, Dr. Holm, Dr. Whitten, and from BAIC - Dr. Skinner, Mr. Speh, Dr. Wells and Mr. Senseman, and from the Administration office, Dr. Winters and Dr. May, and Mr. Marston. Mr. Reed made the flat statement that the agreement which was entered into in 1941 by Dr. Knight and him had never been observed. Dr. Skinner immediately challenged this and said that he could not permit the statement to stand before Dr. Winters because we had in every particular abided by both the spirit and the letter of the agreement. Dr. Skinner pointed out that where there was a conflict of proposed projects that the agreement provided in the last paragraph for the very type of session we were now having at the call of Dr. Winters. Mr. Reed entered into a rather lengthy statement pointing out the fact that the Bureau of Dairy Industry was all organized when the laboratories were organized and that he opposed any part of milk products being allotted to the ErRL, even though the utilization was in the industrial field. He said he still feels about it the same way. He said he thought the agreement ought to be protected. He further said he thought there ought to be no limitations on anything a research man chooses to do. This position was challenged by Dr. Skinner, Dr. Wells, and others, and it was pointed out that if Mr. Reed's idea prevailed there was no need of any coordinating agency. Mr. Reed's reply was that if there was ~~any~~ reason to coordinate other activities he was not particularly interested except that he wished to have all of the work the BDI wished to do left alone, to which Dr. Skinner replied that apparently Mr. Reed was taking the position that he was willing to have all the Department coordinated but him. This Mr. Reed rather resented. This matter was apparently brought to an issue by the fact that detailed line projects had been called for and when these were presented by the BDI, it was evident that they had never relinquished their field of work in the industrial utilization of milk byproducts and the derivatives of such products, which was a part of the agreement ~~between~~ signed by Reed and Knight. Both Dr. Wells and Dr. Skinner attempted to explain the misinterpretation which had been placed upon the language of the letters of April 9 and September 25.

Dr. Skinner pointed out that in his letter of April 9 the statement that the work might be done by the ERRL or by the BDI was simply to indicate to Dr. Auchter the availability of services to be rendered based upon the decision of the Director and should be interpreted as implying that the ERRL was engaged in food products derived from milk. Dr. Wells pointed out that if under the rather specific authority for the work in the regional laboratories ~~that~~ without such an agreement, it would seem entirely proper for the ERRL to work on butter, cheese and other milk products. He asked Mr. Reed if he thought such an arrangement would be satisfactory. Mr. Reed failed to reply. Later on however he did say that in his opinion the regional laboratories were created for no other purpose than to work on waste products and that there were no waste products if milk were properly utilized, which BDI is attempting to develop. The meeting was in session for three hours and adjourned to reconvene at the call of Dr. Winters.

Upon telegraphic request of Dr. Skinner, Mr. J.L.Heid, Chief of the Winter Haven Laboratory called him (Dr. K) on the long distance telephone at 1:30. The subject for discussion was the release of Mr. Heid to accept a position in industry and a possible replacement for him at Winter Haven. Dr. Skinner explained the several embarrassments to the Bureau by this situation and Mr. Heid insisted that he did not wish to cause embarrassment to the Bureau. He stated that during the summer when in Los Angeles he had contacted Dr. Beavens who was under the impression that the L.A. Laboratory would be closed out with the coming fiscal year and that he would naturally be looking for an opening elsewhere. It was with the thought in mind that Dr. Beavens would be available for transfer to the W.H. Lab that Mr. Heid had allowed the offer to assume concrete form, and now that he has, the people are pressing him for a definite answer, and he has signed a contract with them. Dr. Skinner stated that he had no knowledge whatever of any plan to close the L.A. Lab. and with Mr. Chace's imminent retirement, he had naturally expected Dr. Beavens to be designated to carry on at L.A. Dr. Skinner then pointed out to Mr. Heid his and Dr. Beavens' error in making administrative decisions, and Mr. Heid assured Dr. Skinner

there was no intention of creating a situation of that type. After some discussion as to possible readjustments which might be made at Winter Haven in the event of Heid's release or resignation, Dr. Skinner instructed Mr. Heid to ask Mr. Harold Norman of the Florida Citrus Cannery Coop. to call him on the telephone at the earliest possible time.

Dr. Skinner talked with Mr. Harold Norman of the Florida Citrus Canners Cooperative (Lake Wales) on long distance telephone. Mr. Norman stated that as they had entered into a contract with Mr. Heid in good faith, believing there was no question of him coming with their company (Heid having already signed a contract), he was insistent that every possible effort be made to have this plan carried through. Dr. Skinner explained the difficulties of the situation but promised Mr. Norman he would contact Mr. Paine by long distance with a view to coming to some definite decision as to either the release of Heid or a suggestion to him of a replacement for him with their company. Mr. Norman did not seem interested in H.H. Mottern as a possible replacement for Heid, and suggested that perhaps Heid might be released to them and Mottern replace Heid at our Winter Haven station. Again Dr. Skinner explained there were certain difficulties about this. Dr. Skinner promised to let Mr. Norman know ~~by~~ of our decision within 24 hours. *

Dr. Skinner then called Mr. Paine on long distance telephone. Dr. Skinner mentioned the possibility of Mr. Mottern replacing Heid at the WH Station, but Mr. Paine was not agreeable to this. Mr. Paine indicated his first choice to be Beavens, with Campbell a second choice. Dr. Skinner told Mr. Paine he would contact Dr. Swenson with a view to getting his reaction to the transfer of either Beavens or Campbell. *

Dr. Skinner discussed with Dr. Mottern, who called around noon of this same day, the possibility of Heid's leaving and was advised by Dr. Mottern that he had talked with Mr. Harold Norman on his recent visit to Florida with the idea of being considered for the position if Heid is not available. Mr. Mottern said that Mr. Norman was formerly a director of the Farm Credit Bank of Columbia, S.C.

Mr. Teuton discussed with Dr. Skinner the disposal of the Fessenden manuscript on the methacrylate method of specimen preservation which Dr. Sando had refused to accept part authorship. Dr. Skinner indicated to Mr. Teuton that the report was not perhaps worthy of publication

*See detailed transcript in files.

but the data might be used in letters in answering correspondence. It is valuable to have it on file.

Dr. H. H. Brown came in to discuss the appearance of he and Mr. Horn before Mr. Wakeman of the WPB in regard to the utilization of Horn's process in the manufacture of pulp for paper. Dr. Skinner and Dr. Brown reviewed the correspondence between Horn, Lathrop and Wakeman, and the early correspondence between Dr. Skinner and Mr. Horn during 1934, etc.

Dr. Coghill called to see Dr. Skinner and reported that the Keichel Laboratory, West Chester, Penna. is now the largest producer of penicillin. In discussing the use of lactose as a raw material, Dr. Coghill stated that the 1942 production of lactose was 4,000,000 pounds and stated further that if all the plants now being developed or in full operation in '42 continued to use 3% of lactose that it will require 8,000,000 pounds this year, or twice the amount of actual production in '42. Dr. Coghill discussed the possibilities as to where this material might be obtained. Dr. Coghill stated that Merck, Squibb and the Keichel Laboratories are the large producers and he is in favor of their being permitted to push the thing to a rapid conclusion. He thinks the research work ought to be restricted if possible to this organization, pointing out that to distribute penicillin to the many people interested in its molecular structure will cause serious delay and inconvenience in the products developed. Dr. Coghill said that one of the companies was using modified starch and seemed to be getting just about as good a yield as when 3% lactose is used.

Wiley Smith called on Dr. Skinner and during the conversation stated that it was he ~~and one of his helpers~~ and one of his helpers that suggested to Colonel Otto of the War Department the possibility of using a gasoline jelly in incendiary bombs; the idea being that with a soap solution or a resinous material, the gasoline would be held to a small area when exploded and would develop a large amount of heat, whereas the liquid gasoline would be so dispersed as to fail in the desired accomplishment. He stated that he was later told by Col. Otto that the idea had been passed on to Pheizer of Harvard who was interested in doing some work on it. Later Smith heard about the great work which was done at Harvard with the identical idea suggested for incendiary bombs. Smith also stated that in a conference with some people at the Chemical Warfare Service at Edgewood when they were demonstrating the possibility of smoke screens that he pointed out to the officers in charge that it really was not a smoke screen which would be most effective but that if the fog could be produced it would be very desirable. He suggested the idea of using zinc oxide and tetanium oxide. He said this was another idea which was expanded by others and then brought out as a great idea by the War Department.

Monday, November 8, 1943

360

Mr. Carl Fish of the Lake Wales Cooperative Company called to discuss with Dr. Skinner the contract which Mr. Harold Norman of his company had entered into with Mr. Heid. He is very anxious that Mr. Heid be permitted to go through with the arrangement. He told Dr. Skinner that Mr. Norman was convinced that he had not done the thing in the best way but that he had done it in good faith, largely influenced by what Mr. Heid had told him about the situation in the Bureau. Mr. Fish said that they had considered Mr. Mottern but did not feel that he was the man for the job. I explained to him in detail our difficulty in finding a replacement for Heid but indicated I expected we would be able to do so and would release Heid for the job with them.

Telegram sent to EABeavens, L.A., asking if he would be interested in transfer to Winter Haven Station.

sent on the 4th not today.

Long distance telephone to Mr. Lynch and Mr. Paine. Dr. Skinner first asked Mr. Lynch to plan to stay over after the Directors' meeting until December 1 in order that Dr. May might arrange for a meeting on tire cord for Tuesday, November 30, with members of BPI and others represented. Mr. Lynch agreed to remain over as suggested.

Dr. Skinner then talked with Mr. Paine, telling him that he had talked with Beavens on long distance phone the day before and Beavens had stated that he is not willing to consider a transfer to Winter Haven. He said he would of course go if forced to do so but would much prefer to stay in Los Angeles. He further stated that Heid had misinformed us as to his conversation with him during the past summer - that he did not discuss the matter of a transfer with him in any way. Dr. Skinner said he did not want to force Beavens to make this move as he does not consider it a good policy. He then told Mr. Paine about the visit of Mr. Fish the day before and that Mr. Fish had indicated that Heid had already entered into a contract with the Lake Wales people and it would be tremendously to their disadvantage if he does not come with them. In fact, the cooperators have been lead to believe that Heid will run the plant - if he is not already running it. Mr. Paine stated that he knew they would bring pressure to bear to procure Heid's services. Dr. Skinner then asked, with Beavens out of the picture, what was Mr. Paine's judgment as to what is best to do. Dr. Skinner suggested Straka but Mr. Paine did not consider Straka a good selection due to the fact that he is primarily a bacteriologist and what the W.H. job requires particularly at this time is a man with good chemical training and background. Mr. Paine further commented that Straka's personality would not fit in with the situation. Dr. Skinner said that he had broached the matter of Campbell's transfer to Dr. Swenson but that Swenson said he would prefer to send Straka (later it developed that Campbell refused the transfer). Mr. Paine reiterated that he would not want Straka for the W.H. job. Mr. Paine then stated that if Campbell was out of the picture his next selection would be Veldhuis who he considers has the chemical training necessary and the personality for

the job. Dr. Skinner asked Mr. Paine if he agreed that we should let Heid go and Mr. Paine replied that he believes the Lake Wales people will be able to force the issue. Dr. Skinner recalled that Mr. Fish had told him that Heid has been running their job for the last six months and that the cooperators think Heid is their man. Dr. Skinner suggested that under the circumstances he would be inclined to let Heid go and Mr. Paine agreed that it looks as if his usefulness to us is ended. Mr. Paine reiterated that his second choice to Campbell would be Veldhuis.

At Dr. Skinner's request, Dr. Swenson called on long distance phone regarding a replacement for Dr. Beavens at L. A. in case of Heid's release to the Fla. Citrus Cooperative. Dr. Swenson stated that if it was to the best interests of the work that Dr. Beavens be transferred to Winter Haven he was agreeable, and said that he would advise Dr. Skinner in a night letter as of this date as to his recommendations for a replacement for Los Angeles.

Mr. W. B. Camp, President of the Kern County Dehydration Company at Bakersfield, California, called to discuss the operation of their plant. He said that the plant was not a success - that they were having a great deal of trouble with the mechanics operating the plant and that if something could not be done to correct the situation that they would have to close the plant down; that while they had something like \$500,000 invested in the plant, they would sooner lose their money than to attempt to go on at the present time. He said that the plant had been built strictly according to our specifications and that he had not sold the idea to his colleagues until he had investigated the matter and concluded that the WRRL design was the very last word in dehydration. I immediately told him that I had understood that the plant had not been built according to our specifications and designs and that there had been some controversy between Mr. Van Arsdel and the Austin Engineering Company who had built the Kern Co. plant and that if I remembered correctly one of the things that Mr. Van Arsdel had objected to was a modification of the blancher. Dr. Skinner made the statement before Mr. Camp had told him anything of the details of the trouble which they had had. He stated that the plant was now operating entirely on potatoes and that after a short preliminary run on carrots last spring, he was ordered by Mr. Dodds FDA office that he was to confine his efforts to potatoes and since then they have been operating on potatoes. He said that the trouble began in the plant when Mr. Bert Smith of the inspection force first came to their plant. He said that they were having a large amount of rejects by the inspectors that had been running along recently about 20 or 25%, but that they had had some rejections that amounted to 50% of their whole output. He said of course no plant can operate on such a basis. He was very anxious to have Mr. Van Arsdel go to the plant at once and stay there long enough to see what was the matter and to tell them frankly what the trouble is. He said if Mr. Van Arsdel could not go then he would suggest that Mr. Ramage go, but that they did not want Mr. Hemmeter. He then told Dr. Skinner considerable about the difficulty with Mr. Hemmeter and the reason that Mr. Hemmeter was not employed as superintendent of the plant, some of which

he had conveyed to Dr. Skinner over the telephone when he was in Washington in March 1943 (see Journal page 145). Mr. Camp was very critical that something would have to be done and done quickly. Dr. Skinner told him that he was not certain if Mr. Van Arsdel or Mr. Ramage were available, but that they would certainly look into the matter as soon as some one is available. Dr. Skinner promised to call Mr. Van Arsdel today and get a direct answer regarding this.

Mr. Camp reiterated that it would have to be done promptly because his Board of Directors was meeting the afternoon of Friday, the 12th, and if word could ~~not~~ be gotten to him today or tomorrow at Room 240, Washington Hotel, he would get in touch with them. Mr. Camp was quite free to express the opinion that there was a deliberate attempt being made to discredit the design of the plant and to discredit the work done by Van Arsdel and the WRRL. He cited numerous confidential data to support this opinion. He said the principal trouble seemed to be with the operation supervised by Bert Smith and recited a case when he was on here last spring at a meeting in his hotel attended by Colonel Logan and Major Olmstead, and some others, as a result of which Mr. Smith was called on the long distance phone and was told to "lay off" the interference with the construction of the plant - that the Austin Engineering Co. was to build the plant according to the designs furnished by Mr. Van Arsdel, and that it was none of Smith's business. Mr. Camp said he was here to settle this matter and that he was having dinner with Grover Hill this evening, but that he did not expect to take up this matter specifically at this time, but did expect to see Hill about it before he left on Saturday, the 13th. Dr. Skinner promised Mr. Camp that he would look into the matter immediately and try to advise him at his hotel before Saturday.

Mr. Camp did say that he had two special investigators visit other potato dehydration plants and that such material as was rejected at his plant was being accepted right along at these other plants. He feels very strongly that there is connivance to discredit somebody.

Dr. Skinner and Mr. Speh discussed with Dr. Woodbury the difficulty in the operation at the Kern County Dehydration plant and inquired if it would be possible for him to go to Bakersfield. Dr. Woodbury stated it would be impossible for him to go to Bakersfield, but that he would be glad to see Evans if he would come to Albany while he is there.

Dr. Skinner called Mr. Van Arsdel and instructed him, if possible, to visit the Kern Co. dehydration plant at Bakersfield on the 12th in time for a meeting of the Board of Directors. This is in accordance with the request made by Mr. Camp. Mr. Van Arsdel indicated his willingness to do so but said he would have to return by the 15th. He was told that the matter had been discussed with Woodbury who suggested that Evans come to Albany since Dr. Woodbury could not go to Bakersfield. Dr. Woodbury further stated that he would not discuss the matter with Evans except in the presence of Mr. Van Arsdel.

Dr. Skinner called Mr. Camp at the Washington Hotel and advised him that he had just talked with Van Arsdel and instructed him to go to Bakersfield for the meeting of the Board of Directors on the 12th. Mr. Camp seemed very well pleased with this arrangement. Dr. Skinner told him that Van Arsdel had stated very frankly that Mr. Evans and the people who were running the plant would not follow instructions - that there was no question but that if instructions were followed, the blancher and other parts of the plant would operate successfully. He was also told of Mr. Van Arsdel's statement that 4 or 5 plants were using the blancher successfully. He was told that Mr. Van Arsdel stated the blancher is a modified and improved design of the one used by the Simplot Company - that Mr. Simplot had accepted Mr. Van Arsdel's modification of the blancher and that in the new ones constructed, Mr. Simplot had further improved the design.

Sgt. F. H. Lawrence, I.D. -P.M.G.O., came in to see Dr. Skinner. He was making an investigation of a former employee of the Bureau now connected with the Public Health Service. Dr. Skinner told the investigator of the work done in this bureau during the first world war and that so far as Dr. Skinner knew, there was no question about the man's loyalty and integrity.

Dr. Auchter came in to see Dr. Skinner about 3 o'clock. He discussed the manner of presenting the budget of the bureau before the House Committee on Appropriations. Dr. Skinner told Dr. Auchter of the plan to have Mr. Speh and Dr. May present the date which was agreeable to Dr. Auchter. It was decided that Dr. Skinner, Dr. May and Mr. Speh would meet in Dr. Auchter's office Monday afternoon to go over the situation and organize a plan of presentation.

Dr. Skinner called Mr. M. K. Veldhuis, Pullman Station to ask him if he would be interested in a transfer to the Winter Haven Station to replace Mr. Heid who was being released to go over to the employ of the Florida Citrus Cannery Cooperative. Mr. Veldhuis said he would give the matter immediate consideration and advise Dr. Skinner of his decision before the end of the day.// Dr. Skinner also inquired of Mr. Veldhuis in regard to the Nightshade in peas. Mr. Veldhuis explained that the difficulty was not with Nightshade but rather with a trace of oil left in the can which cannot be detected by taste. A ruling by the Food & Drugs Adm. is urged by the pea canners who claim that a saving of over a quarter million dollars a year will accrue if a tolerance can be declared under a F&D ruling. // Mr. Veldhuis also stated that the pear waste utilization work was progressing satisfactorily but that some points will have to be more carefully checked. (A detailed transcript of this conversation has been placed in the files)

Mr. Veldhuis telephoned Dr. Skinner this morning to say that he would accept the position as Chief of the Winter Haven Station of the Bureau. Mr. Veldhuis made inquiry as to the number of men who were furnished by the Florida Citrus Commission for the work there and Dr. Skinner told him there were four of these men. He also told him of the amount of money that the Florida Citrus Commission was putting into this cooperative work. Mr. Veldhuis also asked if the Bureau had many vacancies at the Winter Haven Laboratory and Dr. Skinner told him he thought there might be one, but he did not know for sure as to that. Mr. Veldhuis said that he would like to remain at Pullman, Washington until their household goods were at least crated for shipment, and further that he would like to plan to have Mrs. Veldhuis accompany him by automobile from Pullman, Washington. He thought that he would probably have Mrs. Veldhuis stop off with her people in North Carolina. Mr. Veldhuis asked regarding the housing situation at Winter Haven and Dr. Skinner told him that so far as he knew it was not especially bad at Winter Haven, although of course most communities have felt the effect of the war on the housing situation. Mr. Veldhuis asked if it was planned to fill his vacancy at Pullman when he left to go to Winter Haven. Dr. Skinner said that he assumed the position ~~was~~ would be filled but that he did not know who would be recommended for the place. Mr. Veldhuis said he would like to suggest Me. Neubert of the Pullman Station whom he thought would be quite competent to carry on the work. Dr. Skinner reiterated that this of course would be a matter for Dr. Swenson to submit a recommendation and Mr. Veldhuis said that ~~he~~ understood that Dr. Swenson would be at Pullman on December 7 and he would mention the matter to him then.

(Above dictated to FMJ by HAD)

Conference in Dr. Skinner's office with him, Mr. Speh, Mr. Donovan, Dr. Stevens, Mr. Senseman, Mr. Teuton and Dr. Price. Discussed the Bureau's position in the post-war personnel situation.

Dr. Skinner called Mr. Paine at N.O. and notified him of Dr. Veldhuis' decision. Mr. Paine indicated that Pulley should carry on at W.H. until Veldhuis arrives. Mr. Paine told Dr. Skinner to use his own judgment about time of releasing Heid, but that it was his opinion he should stay on the job as long as possible to tide over, but that Veldhuis should be gotten there as soon as possible, possibly within 4 to 6 weeks at the longest. Mr. Paine also thinks the shift in jobs, that is, Veldhuis promotion to P-5 grade, should be made as soon as possible. Dr. Skinner instructed Mr. Paine to call Heid and tell him that the Bureau is arranging his release effective as soon as possible and that he will be notified of the effective date. It was also understood that Mr. Paine was to write to McDowell and tell him about Veldhuis. The question of funds to cover the move was then discussed and Mr. Paine indicated there was insufficient amount to cover in the funds available under ACR. Dr. Skinner referred this question to Mr. Donavan who assured him that there would be no question as to clearance of funds to cover and that he would advise him direct regarding this within a few days.

Mr. C. F. Fish called and he was advised that Mr. Veldhuis^s had just consented to accept the position at Winter Haven and that Dr. Skinner is to call Mr. Paine immediately and advise him (as above). Dr. Skinner asked Mr. Fish to inform Mr. Norman regarding the causes for the delay in settling this matter. Mr. Fish was told that the Bureau would release Mr. Heid but that it would be necessary for him to comply with the Civil Service regulations which will probably take several days.

Mr. T. H. Hopper, SRRL, called to see Dr. Skinner.

Tuesday, November 16, 1943

370
369

At the meeting of the Bureau Chiefs, Dr. Auchter discussed the reports on the Alaskan projects and it was decided to ask the committee or the Bureau of the Budget to clarify expenditures from old line funds. Dr. Auchter discussed the matter of awards of merit. Dr. Stanley discussed the activity of the committee and stated that any idea of a money award had been abandoned. She asked for suggestions from the various bureaus. Medals, certificates of distinction, diplomas of merit, and such ideas were briefly discussed.

Dr. Annand brought up the question of establishment of a policy for releases of personnel to take up industrial work. It was pointed out that no one could leave the service without a release from the Chief of his Bureau unless the individual resigned, in which case he was unable to take up a specific line of work within 60 days. It was the consensus of opinion that this is not working very well; indeed it is almost in the discard. Dr. Marston and Mr. Cardon reported on the meeting Monday in Mr. Jump's office to consider the proposal by the Bureau of the Budget of consolidating certain units for the transfer of property. Dr. Auchter suggested that the unit of transfer be the ARA. Mr. Cardon thought this would not be accepted by the Bureau of the Budget, and the next best idea it was believed would be to consider the individual bureau. It was pointed out that three of the bureaus now have no sub-financial-appropriations, and therefore are not bothered about the transfer of equipment. Dr. Skinner suggested that since each bureau had an appropriation of a specific sum, the logical conclusion would be that the transfer of property ought to be permitted in the general bureau item. Mr. Cardon said that he feared an attempt would be made to permit transfer only between research units, between regulatory units, or between control units. This would be very awkward for some bureaus.

Dr. Fracker reported on the deficit of \$50,000 in the Community War Fund. After considerable discussion it was decided that no action would be taken by ARA on the request of Mr. Delano for suggested methods of raising the deficit.

Dr. Auchter discussed the statement of accomplishment

Tuesday, November 16 (continued)

369
370

submitted to Judge Tarver immediately after the hearings last year. It is understood that a request for similar data will be required for the ensuing year. Considerable discussion was had of the policy and strategy of presenting the material.

Conference in Dr. Auchter's office with Dr. May, Mr. Cardon, Mr. Speh and Dr. Skinner for the purpose of discussing the presentation before the House Committee. Dr. Auchter stated to the group that he had agreed with Dr. Skinner's reasons for having the program presented by Dr. May and Mr. Speh. Various specific items of the several laboratories and of the decentralized units were discussed and it was decided that Mr. Speh would prepare a general statement and that he and Dr. May would get together with a general discussion and division of the work to be presented by each of them, and the matter would be discussed with Dr. Auchter at a later date.

Wednesday, November 17, 1943

371

Mr. Hanke of the Civil Service Commission was over to discuss with Dr. Skinner the ability and qualifications of Mr. R. S. Hollingshead.

Dr. Skinner discussed with Dr. May the needs of the new Chief of BAIC succeeding Dr. Skinner and pointed out the desirability of having the matter settled at an early date. Dr. Skinner advised Dr. May that he had made this recommendation to Dr. Auchter. Mr. May and Dr. Skinner also discussed the agreement between this Bureau and BDI. Dr. May was advised that an appointment had been made to see Dr. Winters on Saturday morning.

Dr. Winters came over at 10 o'clock and discussed with Mr. Speh and Dr. Skinner until 12:30 the conflict of interests between the BDI and BAIC. Dr. Skinner gave to Dr. Winters some data prepared by Dr. Wells in reply to Mr. O. E. Reed's statement that nothing has been done in this Bureau since the BDI left off. Dr. Wells submitted a statement showing that 5 papers have been published, there are 22 papers in preparation, and 39 patents have been applied for. Dr. Winters submitted a proposed solution of the difficulty which would abrogate the memorandum of agreement between the two bureaus. Mr. Speh and Dr. Skinner expressed their disapproval of such a position but agreed with Dr. Winters that they would give his statement very careful consideration and discuss the matter with him at a later date. Dr. Winters said he would like to have this done as soon as possible in order to get the matter cleared up with Dr. Auchter sometime before the House budget hearings.

E. A. Gastrock and R. J. Cheatham of the Southern Regional Laboratory called and discussed some phases of their work with Dr. Skinner.

Bureau Chiefs' meeting. Mr. Cardon presiding. (1) Mr. Cardon stated that he understood that members of the investigating committee of the House Appropriations Committee may shortly visit the Bureaus or even field laboratories or stations to discuss (a) ceilings, vacancies, and even possibility of reduction of personnel: (b) the type of work and the problems being undertaken by the Bureau's units. Apparently the purpose is to make available to the House Appropriations Committee before hearings are started, information procured by representatives of the Committee before hearing justification for appropriations from the Bureau representatives. (I suggest bringing this matter to the attention of the Directors, merely with the idea of notifying them that this visit is possible).

(2) Senate Bill 1463 transferring to the General Land Office the maintaining of all records on acquisition and disposition of Government owned land was discussed. It was the general feeling that this Bill may be of great importance and should be treated seriously. It apparently has the endorsement of the U. S. Realty Board and references are made to it in the Byrd Report. (Statement should be prepared giving a list of properties owned, etc. in the event that any question comes up)

(3) Reference was again made to the question of creating subappropriation items and a means of transferring property. A report was prepared and submitted to the Department's Budget & Finance Division on the basis of a Bureau level. It was also suggested that the authorization cover not only the regular working funds but special and transfer funds.

(4) Reference was made without discussion to a matter which was brought up at the previous Bureau Chiefs' meeting in connection with an interbureau report on rural electrification.

(5) The first draft of a form was submitted to furnish Dr. Auchter with information on the field stations. Suggestions were made as to amending the form to include the title of the field station, the use of the field station, etc. Following is the form:

Bureau:

Division:

State

City:

Location:

Date established:

Acres land:

How held:

Total annual budget

Cooperative relations

The form is now being prepared in order to provide Dr. Auchter with a complete statement of all personnel in the Bureau.

(6) Reference was made to the list of accomplishments filed and the attention of the Bureau was being brought to suggested changes to avoid repetition of last year's statements.

(7) Mr. Schoenhals referred to a conference he had had with Mr. Trullinger regarding coeducational deferment. Mr. Trullinger has suggested that a conference be held with Cardon, Schoenhals, himself, and someone designated from each bureau who has the responsibility of preparing the letters requesting deferments. The Bureau will be notified.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday,
November 25-27, 1943

376

The four Directors were here and the following program was discussed:

Projects - Program of Work
Relation of Directors to Decentralized Units
Travel
Patents
Ceilings - Personnel
Organization Charts
Eating Facilities
Efficiency Rating Committee Organization
Exhibit Material
Safety Committee - recommendations
Possible Contribution to Work in Alaska
Name of Regions
Copies of Correspondence

Monday, November 29, 1943

377

Although Dr. Wells was absent because of illness, Mr. Speh and Dr. Skinner continued discussion of the general program (see page) during the morning.

Dr. Skinner conferred with Mr. Lynch re matters of SRRL.

Saturday, November 27, 1943

378

of Chicago

Mr. Diehl called on Dr. Skinner to tell him about the offer which he had received from the Refrigeration Foundation which he felt he must accept, the salary being \$12,000 a year with a five-year contract. Dr Skinner agreed that Mr. Diehl could not turn down such a flattering offer. Mr. Diehl also told Dr. Skinner about the serious breakdown of his son who is in camp in South Carolina. Mr. Diehl asked for an extension of annual leave in order to visit one or two of the camps where his son had been to see if the matter could be straightened up. To this Dr. Skinner agreed.

Dr. Skinner discussed with Dr. Swenson the relationship of Dr. Lightbody to the operation of the WRRL and told him of some of the comments that had come to him, both within and without the Department, about Dr. Lightbody's failure to measure up to the needs of the Laboratory. Dr. Swenson was surprised to hear about it and seemed to be a bit startled. Dr. Skinner told Dr. Swenson that in his opinion Dr. Lightbody would never be considered as a replacement for Dr. Swenson and told Dr. Swenson very frankly that he, Dr. Skinner, did not believe that Dr. Swenson was fully aware of what went on in his absences from the Laboratory, which absences are very frequent and for extended periods. Dr. Skinner suggested that Dr. Swenson should look into the matter and perhaps arrange to spend more of his time at the Laboratory, and if necessary, detail some other members of his staff to field work.

Dr. Skinner discussed with Dr. Swenson the report of Mr. Camp about the unsatisfactory setup at Bakersfield. Dr. Swenson agreed that as soon as he got back he would have Mr. Van Arsdel, if possible, go to Bakersfield and run the plant for two weeks, or for such length of time as he can prove that the equipment which has been built and installed according to our plans and specifications will or will not work. This seems to be very essential because of the complaints which have been made, especially by Mr. Bert Smith, that the plant is improperly designed and is not based on sound engineering principles. This was reported to Dr. Skinner by Mr. Camp. Dr. Swenson surprised Dr. Skinner by advising him that Mr. Armenta had arrived at the Bakersfield plant before Dr. Swenson left Los Angeles, and that Mr. Armenta is to be general superintendent of the whole outfit. This may interfere with Mr. Van Arsdel's contact with the plant. Dr. Skinner decided to write Mr. Camp about the matter.

Dr. Skinner discussed with Dr. Swenson the resignation of Mr. Diehl and discussed the future of the frozen pack work. Dr. Swenson indicated that he was planning to put the whole activity under Mr. Howard. Dr. Swenson discussed the advisability of putting Dr. Brothers in charge of the protein work. Dr. Skinner was not at all enthusiastic about this and told Dr. Swenson that while he would have to depend on his (Swenson's) judgment, that it was not Dr. Skinner's opinion that Dr. Brothers was the proper man for the job.

Dr. Skinner raised the question as to who should be selected to take the position vacated by Veldhuis at Pullman. Dr. Swenson asked what Dr. Skinner thought of sending Mr. Eddy as Chief of this unit. Dr. Skinner was not enthusiastic about the matter and told Dr. Swenson he thought he ought to have a stronger man, and asked about the capabilities of the man there - Newbert. No decision was reached.

Mr. Speh, Dr. Swenson and Dr. Skinner discussed the proposal of Dr. Balls to have Mr. Tucker come east to visit the Park & Tilford Owings Mills plant, and other plants who are making or trying to make this protein. It was agreed that the Balls-Tucker method had progressed to that point where it should be turned over to the Protein Division and that from now on the

development should be in that Division. Because of the letter which Park & Tilford have sent in under date of Nov. 23, it was decided to call Mr. Groggins who had been in touch with the company. Groggins denied having anything to do with the writing of the letter or instigating it, but did state if the work at Park & Tilford was successful the recovery of protein could be perhaps developed in 4 or 5 other plants. Mr. Groggins was very emphatic that it would be much better for the Bureau to have Balls come on to supervise this work than for the Bureau to be represented by Mr. Tucker, who Mr. Groggins does not consider a good representative for the Bureau. Dr. Swenson was rather loathe to put up the necessary money to send Tucker and an engineer from Albany to supervise the Park & Tilford operations at Owings Mills. It was finally decided to call Dr. Balls on the phone about this matter.



December

Miss Preinkert submitted a statement received from the Division of Budget and Finance showing the detailed action of the Bureau of the Budget upon our estimates. The total deduction from the estimates was \$65,000.

Dr. Balls, Dr. Swenson and Dr. Skinner discussed over long distance phone the proposed trip of either he or Mr. Tucker to Owings Mills, Md., and other places in the East to look into the application of the Balls-Tucker process by the Park & Tilford Co. Dr. Balls stated it was absolutely impossible for him to be here for the next four or five weeks. It was finally decided that Mr. Tucker, accompanied by Dr. Brother would make the trip, and in addition to Owings Mills visit Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Louisville. Dr. Skinner told Dr. Balls that he expected the work on the recovery of protein to be brigaded in with Dr. Swenson's protein program.

In the afternoon, Dr. Skinner called Mr. Robt. Handren, Vice-President of the Park & Tilford Co. in New York and asked when they expected to begin operations at Owings Mills. He said on December 15. He stated that representatives of WFA, WPB and some industrial representatives would be there for the opening runs and it would be very desirable for either Balls or Tucker to be present. When he was told about the difficulty of transportation he agreed that the opening of the plant might be delayed until the 20th and that he would so advise his people at Owings Mills. He says a great deal is depending on this run and that the plant at Owings Mill has been converted to full operation on the Balls-Tucker method for producing alcohol, and the further method of recovery of protein, which is not being done, so far as Mr. Handren knows, in any plant which is using the Balls-Tucker alcohol method. Dr. Skinner promised to notify Mr. Handren as soon as he hears from the West Coast when the representatives of the Bureau can be available, but in any case he anticipates having them at Owings Mill by the 20th. Dr. Swenson then sent the following telegram:

"Can Brother accompany Tucker on or about December sixth or as soon thereafter as accommodations can be procured on trip East on wheat protein recovery work. Trip probably four weeks duration. Owings Mills test cannot be started later than December 20th. Discuss plan with Balls. Have authorized travel funds both men from protein division. Wire."

Dr. Skinner discussed with Dr. Swenson the development of the protein program at the WRL and the proposal to have Dr. Brother assume leadership of this work. Dr. Skinner pointed out the difficulty which Dr. Swenson might encounter in trying to brigade the work which may develop out of the Balls-Tucker process. Dr. Skinner was quite convinced that the development work is a chemical engineering problem which should now be taken up by the Protein Division of the WRL. With this, Dr. Swenson agreed. Dr. Swenson received the following telegram from Dr. Lightbody in reply to his telegram of yesterday:

"Brother advises his absence prejudicial to Division interest. Balls and Brother recommend Reitz accompany Tucker. Please advise."

Dr. Skinner immediately called Dr. Lightbody on the phone and emphasized the importance of this work in the protein program of the WRL, as mentioned above, and especially the desirability of Dr. Brother making the trip with Tucker. Dr. Lightbody agreed that in the light of Dr. Skinner's explanation, Dr. Brother would no doubt reconsider his former decision and would agree to accompany Tucker on the trip. Dr. Lightbody promised to wire Dr. Skinner as soon as clearance could be obtained from Dr. Brother, and then to send a further wire as soon as accommodations on the railroad could be secured.

W. W. Black was sent over by Dr. Woodbury to discuss with Dr. Skinner the development of a paper showing the availability of materials for farm chemurgic activities. He also discussed the origin of the work and Dr. Skinner gave him the background of the development of the idea by industrial utilization of farm products. Dr. Skinner also explained how George Rommel at the instigation of the Bureau of Chemistry, prepared the first book on the subject and later how Billy Hale came into the picture and created the word "chemurgic" to cover the idea.

Friday, December 3, 1943

384

As agreed in the telephone conversation between Dr. Skinner and Dr. Lightbody yesterday, the following wire was received from Dr. Lightbody:

"Brother will accompany Tucker travel plans will be reported when arrangements obtained."

above

The ~~following~~ information was conveyed to Mr. Handren of the Park & Tilford Company in a letter this date.

Dr. Skinner discussed with Dr. May the presentation of the budget material to the House Committee and the delay in getting the justification data for the Explanatory Notes. Dr. May expressed the feeling that he would be able to present, perhaps, the entire program, if necessary. He stated however that he was somewhat embarrassed in being called upon to do this by Dr. Auchter because of the impression that it might create to have the Bureau's data presented by a member of the ARA staff. Dr. Skinner told Dr. May about his apprehension concerning Mr. Speh's reaction to criticism on the way he presented the data last year - that it was undoubtedly having a very undesirable effect upon him. Dr. Skinner stated that he did not feel disposed to take up the presentation at this time, particularly because of his illness during the past summer which had kept him out of the picture, and further because his retirement in March would probably under any circumstances prevent him from presenting the Bureau's data before the Senate. He said that he was strongly convinced that there should be a complete continuity in the presentation of the budget before the House Committee and before the Senate Committee. Dr. Skinner also took occasion to say to Dr. May that because of the division of the responsibility in the work of this Bureau which had been brought about by Dr. Auchter's details of various activities, that he felt incompetent to speak with the authority necessary to make a convincing presentation. Dr. Auchter came in to Dr. May's office just as the conversation was about to close and ~~Dr. Scholtenberger called~~ asked Dr. May some questions about the penicillin work and Dr. Coghill's coming visit. Dr. Auchter casually mentioned to Dr. Skinner that he had just been down to the Winter Haven Station which was the first intimation that Dr. Skinner had of the visit. Dr. Auchter stated that he had talked with Mr. Heid and Dr. Skinner said to Dr. Auchter, "Well, you know Heid is leaving?" Dr. Auchter expressed very considerable surprise and said that Heid had said nothing about it in his talk with him a few days ago. Dr. Skinner said he presumed Heid had already left by this time and that Dr. Veldhuis had been ordered to transfer from Pullman to Winter Haven; he being Mr. Paine's third choice to fill the job - the first choice Dr. Beavens, the second choice Mr. Campbell, both of whom were not available. Dr. Auchter's only comment was "Well, who's Veldhuis?" He was then informed that Dr. Veldhuis was

formerly at the laboratory at Raleigh. and for the last year and a half had been at Pullman. Dr. Auchter's comment was "I don't know him".

Mr. Shollenberger called.

Thursday, December 8, 1943

386

Dr. McFarland came in to discuss with Dr. Skinner his report prepared for submission to Mr. Termohlen in regard to the dried egg work. After discussion, it was decided that the report should be transmitted through the Chief and ~~either~~ through Dr. Auchter to the Office of Food Distribution Administration. The front page of the report was accordingly rewritten.

The reallocation of Dr. McFarlane from Grade 3 to 4 was discussed, and Dr. McFarlane expressed some displeasure at the Bureau's delay in action and stated that it did not seem advisable to at once put him in Grade 5. Dr. Skinner advised him to talk the matter over further with Mr. Donovan and explained to Dr. McFarlane that Dr. Auchter had issued strict instructions that no double promotions were to be presented to him. However, Dr. Skinner said that he would accede to Dr. McFarlane's request ~~that~~ if the latter was insistent, even at the expense of having the position remain in P-3, if Dr. Auchter disapproved the original suggestion. Dr. McFarlane said he would not accede to this. If his position was not reclassified he ~~felt~~ was proposing to look with favor upon an offer which had been made to him, and a determination regarding which had to be made before February 1. He was advised to discuss the matter further with Mr. Donovan, which he did.// Mr. Sale, Miss Lapp, Mr. Lepper, and a few other members of the AOAC met at eleven o'clock in Dr. Skinner's office and presented to him the silver service which had been voted at the fall meeting of the AOAC. The beautiful 6-piece solid silver tea set was much admired by the many who saw it.

Dr. Auchter called a meeting of members of the BPIS&AE and BAIC interested in the sorghum project. Dr. Auchter announced that he had made the necessary report the previous day to Judge Tarver and had had a fairly satisfactory conference with him. Dr. Auchter had explained the difficulty of getting people sufficiently interested to buy or to plant the necessary amount of seed of the sweet sorghum, and secured Judge Tarver's approval to disregarding the Committee's injunction which will save an expenditure of about \$11,000. Dr. Auchter

explained to Judge Tarver the proposal to reserve enough seed to plant 300 acres of land in the vicinity of Baton Rouge of sweet sorghum of the high yielding and high sugar content varieties enough to produce, it is hoped, about 3000 tons of cane for operating the mill in the fall of '44. Dr. Brandes was present and announced that he was leaving for Africa tonight by plane and that he was to meet his colleague from Bogata at Natal, Brazil. Dr. Auchter asked that Mr. Paine be communicated with in regard to a revised estimate of the \$68,000 for the technological work on sorghum cane which is the figure set up in the request submitted to the Bureau of the Budget.

Mr. Paine was advised on long distance phone about the conference on sorghum and he was told that a detailed letter requesting certain information would follow. This letter was prepared by Mr. Speh and sent airmail.*

Dr. Coghill was in and discussed the penicillin work.

*Mr. Paine stated that McDowell of the Florida Citrus Commission had called him long distance to inquire about the rumor in regard to the close of the Winter Haven Station. Paine understood McDowell to say that Dr. Auchter had advised McDowell that there was a possibility of the station being closed or moved to Orlando. Paine said the connection was bad and he did not get the matter very straight from McDowell, but the latter seemed very much excited about the matter. I told him I had heard nothing about it; that I knew nothing about Dr. Auchter's trip to Florida; that he had said nothing to me about his visit to the Winter Haven Laboratory.

Conference in Dr. Auchter's office with Dr. Quirk of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Dr. Coghill and others about the development and use of penicillin.

Mr. Tucker came in and discussed with Dr. Skinner the work at Owings Mill. He stated that Dr. Brother would be in on Monday and a conference was set for 10 o'clock in Dr. Skinner's office.

Dr. A.N. Richards called to discuss with Dr. Skinner the advisability of a project developing the antibiotic substance from the growth of aspergillis in the treatment of influenza. He wanted to know if a similar arrangement could be made with the Northern Regional Laboratory which existed in regard to the development of penicillin. He was told to please submit the statement in writing, addressing the letter to Dr. Auchter.

Dr. Brother and Mr. Tucker came in for a conference with Dr. Skinner and Mr. Speh at 10 o'clock. It was decided that they would proceed to Owings Mills in the afternoon. Later, in a discussion with Mr. Groggins and Mr. Schaeffer in Dr. Skinner's office, it was decided that Mr. Schaeffer could get transportation he might drive over from Baltimore to Owings Mills early Tuesday morning. This arrangement was consummated. Dr. Skinner told Dr. Brothers that until the plant was in operation he thought it advisable for Dr. Brothers to call the Bureau every morning between 9 and 10, and report. Dr. Skinner was emphatic in indicating to Dr. Brothers and to Mr. Tucker that he expected to have, as a result of this work at Owings Mills, blueprints and specifications prepared covering the Balls-Tucker process for the recovery of protein. Dr. Skinner called Mr. Handren and it was arranged with him to immediately ship a carload of hard wheat to the plant for the experimental work. Mr. Handren stated that they had spent about \$20,000 in the new equipment but that it would be changed in any way that either Dr. Brother or Mr. Tucker might decide. Mr. Handren explained that they had been having some trouble at the plant with the former superintendent but that he had been superseded and he hoped things would now go along smoothly.

Mr. Harold Norman called to see Dr. Skinner and explained in some detail the operation of their plant at Lake Wales. He was very appreciative of the Bureau's action in regard to the release of Mr. Heid. He stated that the citrus industry of Central Florida was somewhat disturbed about the rumor that the Winter Haven plant might close, or move to Orlando. He explained their interest in the Winter Haven plant and expressed the hope that no change would be made. He explained to Dr. Skinner the organizing of the movement to secure a \$50,000 appropriation for the Winter Haven laboratory. Dr. Skinner told him that he had heard of this proposal for the first time on Saturday (Dec. 11). Dr. Skinner told Mr. Norman that he could not indicate, because he did not know, what would be the department's reaction.

Dr. May joined Dr. Skinner and Mr. Donovan at lunch, and later came back to Dr. Skinner's office. Some of the plans for the presentation of the budget were discussed.

Dr. Skinner told Dr. May of the disquieting rumors which were being circulated about either the closing or the transfer of the Winter Haven Laboratory. Dr. Skinner told Dr. May of the call from Mr. Paine who had been contacted by Mr. McDowell shortly after Dr. Auchter left Winter Haven. Mr. McDowell was very much concerned about the rumor regarding the closing of the laboratory. Mr. Paine told Dr. Skinner that Mr. McDowell apparently did not get a satisfactory reply from Dr. Auchter to his inquiry regarding the matter. He also stated that the BPI people at Orlando had apparently given some color to this rumor. Mr. Paine stated that he understood that the BPI representatives had been discussing the feasibility of the transfer to Orlando.

Mr. Herbert Bailey of the Citrus Products Company had lunch with Dr. Skinner and discussed the proposed monograph to be prepared by Mr. Chace. Bailey expressed enthusiastic approval of the undertaking.

Dr. Skinner discussed with Mr. Senseman the project for the Protein Division of the WRL for developing the Balls-Tucker protein recovery project. Mr. Senseman expressed the opinion that the work was properly done under the WRL allocation of work and that there was no conflict with projects of the other regional laboratories.

Dr. Brother called from Owings Mills and reported on the conditions at the plant. He stated that the superintendent is having some labor trouble and there has been a delay in completing the boiler. He expressed the opinion that it probably would not be possible to start at the plant before the 22nd. This will mean that the experimental work will run very certainly into the first or second week in January. Dr. Brothers was told not to be disturbed about the travel funds - that Dr. Skinner was preparing to write a letter to Dr. Swenson instructing the transfer of travel funds to cover the necessary expense for the Owings Mills work.

Dr. Skinner called Mr. Herrick and told him about the work going forward at Owings Mills, and asked Mr. Herrick if he cared to send on an observer when the plant was in full operation, which was agreed to.

Dr. Auchter called Dr. Skinner to inquire about some of the accomplishments of the Winter Haven Laboratory. He said he had received a report sent over on Saturday by Mr. Donovan. Dr. Auchter stated that he had told Mr. Peterson and Grover Hill that it would not be possible to include the requested \$50,000 in this year's appropriation, and that so far as the Department was concerned it could only be considered for the 1944 budget. Dr. Auchter stated however that undoubtedly Mr. Peterson would bring the matter before the committee and that we should be prepared to discuss the program. He asked if any program covering the \$50,000 had ever been prepared and Dr. Skinner told him no - that he knew nothing about any \$50,000 program - that nothing had been said to him

about it and that the first Dr. Skinner knew about it was when a memorandum came over from Dr. Auchter's office on Saturday, December 11. Dr. Skinner asked Dr. Auchter if he understood what the request submitted to Mr. Hill by the citrus growers means. Is it \$50,000 in addition to the funds we are now spending at Winter Haven, which amounts to between \$30,000 and \$40,000, or is it intended that the \$50,000 will pick up the \$18,000 contributed by the Florida Citrus Commission. Dr. Auchter said he did not know. He asked Dr. Skinner to recite over the phone some of the accomplishments of the Winter Haven Laboratory. Dr. Skinner mentioned the deaeration of fruit juice which had established a citrus juice industry in Florida. He recited the concentrated orange juice work, the marmalade base work for Lend Lease, the improvement in grapefruit canning processes, and the production of the cattle feed from waste citrus products. Dr. Skinner told Dr. Auchter that thought would be given immediately to the possible program based on a total expenditure of the laboratory of \$50,000, and also the program which would consider an additional \$50,000 to the present funds available. Dr. Skinner conveyed this information to Mr. Speh.

Dr. Skinner called Mr. Paine and Mr. Lynch in regard to the development of the sweetpotato work at Clewston. Mr. Lynch stated that it was his understanding that construction work had begun on the factory. He suggested that Mr. Ferris be contacted regarding the matter. Mr. Paine said, in regard to the sorghum work, the matter had been discussed with the Station people at Baton Rouge and they were rather less enthusiastic than formerly. He said they would have to know more about who is going to pay for the operation, whether the Sugar Cane League or other sugar interests would be responsible for the operation of the plant and the growing of the sorghum, and to what extent Plant Industry would cooperate. Mr. Paine then took up the matter with Mr. Voorheis who had in turn contacted the people at New Iberis, Houma, and other places, and was planning to contact Mr. Munson of the Southern Louisiana sugar cane interests. Mr. Paine said he would report as soon as he had any definite data.

Dr. Brother called to report on the progress of the work at Owings Mills. He stated that the first boiler was very nearly completed and the second boiler was expected to be ready for work the early part of next week. He stated that he and Mr. Tucker had ordered some changes in the new equipment installed and these changes were being made.

Dr. May came in with Dr. Skinner after lunch and discussed, among other things, the rumor about the closing of the Winter Haven Laboratory. Dr. Skinner explained to Dr. May that he had heard this rumor over the long distance phone from Mr. Paine who had gotten a long distance call from Mr. McDowell about the latter, probably before Dr. Auchter even reached Washington. Dr. Skinner told Dr. May about Mr. Harold Norman reporting on the same matter (reported in Journal of December 13).

Dr. Woodbury, Mr. Marston and Mr. Speh had a conference with Dr. Skinner in the afternoon in regard to the objections raised by Dr. Woodbury and the report of Dr. MacFarlane to Mr. Termohlen. Mr. Speh and Dr. Skinner did not agree with the language of Dr. Woodbury's statements to Dr. Auchter. Mr. Speh suggested getting all of the report out except the findings of fact. Dr. Skinner did not think this was satisfactory because he had understood that Dr. Goresline wanted Dr. MacFarlane's opinions about the development with which MacFarlane was familiar, in addition to the work MacFarlane had done, in order to determine their program for the next six months, and perhaps the fiscal year '45. Dr. Woodbury would not agree to this and it was finally decided, at Dr. Woodbury's suggestion, that he would discuss the matter with Mr. Termohlen. Dr. Skinner raised the point as to the propriety of doing so without first discussing the matter with Dr. Auchter. Dr. Woodbury said he would take a chance on it. Dr. Skinner then said if such a conference was to be had with Mr. Termohlen that he felt Dr. McFarlane ought to be present. It was decided to call Dr. McFarlane and ask him to come down on Wednesday, the 22nd. On call at the ERRL it was found that Dr. McFarlane was on annual leave and would probably not return until after the holidays. This information was conveyed to Dr. Woodbury by Mr. Speh and it was decided to postpone consideration of the report with Termohlen and McFarlane to a later date mutually agreeable.

As the result of a request from Dr. May, Dr. Wells was called on the long distance phone and asked to come to Washington on Wednesday to confer with Dr. May and Mr. Burke of the WPB regarding the use in the development of rubber substitutes.

At the Bureau Chiefs' meeting at 9:30, Mr. Rohwer reported for a committee on the Department Regulations in regard to mentioning or quoting in Government manuscripts of names of firms, individuals or institutions, their products and equipment, if any. It was evident from the cases cited by Mr. Rohwer that this old regulation has never been strictly observed.

Mr. Cardon reported for the committee considering the program for meritorious promotions. It was suggested that a sub-committee be appointed in each Bureau with a scientist as chairman, names of the members of these committees to be certified to Dr. Auchter and from the members of the subcommittees Dr. Auchter would select an overall committee. Dr. Skinner selected the following committee - C.F. Speh, Chairman; Dr. H. Stevens, Mr. H. P. Holman and Mr. H. A. Donovan.

Mr. Gordon McBrude reported that the Patent Committee had about completed the manuscript for the manual on patent procedure suggested by the Solicitor's office. Mr. Cardon reported on President's Circular 17 on the post-war development of public works.

Dr. Auchter announced that in view of the fact that the budget hearings might begin immediately after January 3 that he wished to have a review of the statements prepared in each Bureau which would be used in opening the discussion before the Appropriations Committee of the House.

Dr. Brothers called from Owings Mills and reported on the development of the plant at that place. He said they were having some trouble with the equipment for storing the mash in the tubs. Tucker had gone to Baltimore to see if propeller equipment could be secured. He said the boiler had been passed by the inspectors on Monday and that it would be fired up tomorrow, the 22nd. He stated that Mr. Althausen, the distiller, would not be ready to receive the starch from the protein recovery plant until the morning of the 28th. Dr. Brother expressed the opinion that it would take that long for the recovery plant to be ready to proceed.

Dr. Brothers called to make further report. He stated that in response to an inquiry, he had learned that the Park & Tilford plant at Brownsville had only been an experimental plant and that no real attempt had been made at protein recovery in a commercial way. He understood however that at the plant at Stamping Ground, attempts had been made to recover the protein and that the Balls-Tucker process had been in operation there since the summer. Dr. Brothers stated that upon inquiry he was told that the Balls-Tucker process was put into effect at the Owings Mills distillery on August 9 and had been operated continually since that time. Dr. Brothers was told by Dr. Skinner that he had received word from Dr. Swenson agreeing to cover the necessary expense provided it was decided to have he and Mr. Tucker stay on the work in the East until perhaps the middle of January.

Mr. John Connor of the OSRD came over to discuss with Dr. May and Dr. Skinner a proposed plan of pooling the information in regard to the synthetic production of penicillin. Dr. May and Mr. Speh sat in the conference. Mr. Connor explained the plan which had been worked out with the Department of Justice, the OSRD and the WPB, and was now presenting it for the consideration of the USDA. He was told that it was agreeable to the group that was a party to this discussion, but there seemed to be a legal matter involved and before we could go further it would probably be advisable to contact the Solicitor's office. Dr. Skinner suggested that Mr. Connor see Mr. Koebel. Later Dr. Skinner called Mr. Koebel on the phone who said he would take the matter up directly with Mr. Connor and would arrange to have a conference with him the next day.

Mr. W. F. Dallam of the Pacific Coast Dehydrated Products Co. called and discussed the question of the accuracy and sufficiency of the peroxidase test for the proper blanching of potatoes. He said that they had in the beginning had little trouble with the method until they began using potatoes from Northern Nevada. He was

assured that there was something in the character of these potatoes which made it impossible for them to meet the specifications set up by the Quartermaster's Department of the Army and the WFA. He said that he was taking the matter up with Mr. Doods and others of the FDA organization. Mr. Dallam was told that we had had a recent report from Mr. Howard on the matter and he then said that he and Bert Smith had talked with Mr. Howard on long distance phone from the Statler Hotel the day previously. He said he was to have a further conference with Mr. Dodds this afternoon.

Dr. May, Mr. Speh and Dr. Skinner met with Dr. Auchter and Mr. Cardon to discuss the proposed statement for the Appropriations Committee outlining the accomplishments of BAIC for the last fiscal year. Dr. Auchter thought the statement was a very excellent one but perhaps too long.

Mr. Lynch was called on the long distance phone by Dr. Skinner and Mr. Donovan and advised regarding the report of the Budget Committee on the request for funds for the rubber work. //Dr. Brother called and reported on the development at Owings Mills. He said that Tucker had succeeded in securing the propeller equipment which would be installed for storing the in place of the overhead storing equipment originally contemplated. Dr. Brother stated that as the thing began to open up to him the ~~production bottleneck~~ ^{bottleneck} in the Balls-Tucker process is the necessary increased cooking capacity. Dr Brother stated that contrary to what he told Dr. Skinner yesterday he now finds that the plant has only been operating $1/4$ of its capacity since August 9 by the Balls-Tucker process and this is due to the fact that ^{by} the Balls-Tucker process the cooking time is 130 minutes while the normal time with the ordinary method is only 60 minutes. The result of this longer cooking is to reduce the plant capacity from 1200 bu. of wheat per day to 750 bu. of wheat per day, and the yield of proof alcohol was reduced from 6300 gallons per day to 4000 gallons per day. Dr. Brother stated he had not been able to get a very definite statement from Mr. Tucker if he knew what this meant or how to overcome it. He asked for instructions and was told to use his best engineering ability to see if this bottleneck could be relieved by increasing the cooker capacity or in some other way. Dr. Skinner called Dr. May and advised him of Dr. Brothers' report.

Tuesday, December 28, 1943

400
4

Mr. Herrick called on long distance and advised that OSRD had informed Dr. Coghill that they had determined the Bradley Institute agreement to be illegal. They were anxious to have the work go forward without interruption however, and we planning to try to get an agreement effective by January 1, 1944 with the Bureau. As I understand it, they were also planning on making an allotment to the Bureau for the continuance of the penicillin work at the NRL. Mr. Herrick was concerned as to whether or not the NRL could employ the 6-SP4 men who are being paid by Bradley under the present agreement under letter of authorization by the NRL, pending the completion of the new agreement and pending the allotment of funds from OSRD. I told Mr. Herrick that so far as I could see there was no reason why they could not employ these 6-SP-4 men under LA but that he would have to be prepared to pay these salaries out of the NRL funds if the allotment by the OSRD was not made and if for any reason it was made late and we were unable to arrange to charge the early January salaries of these men to that fund.

H.A. Donovan

Wednesday, December 29, 1943

401

Dr. Brother called to report on the work at Owings Mills.

Mr. Herrick called on long distance to discuss the advisability of Herrick and Coghill coming on to Washington to work out the plans for the budget of Dr. Richards for the synthesis of penicillin. Dr. Skinner approved and Mr. Herrick said he and Dr. Coghill would be in Washington on January 7.

Mr. Tucker came in to discuss the work at Owings Mills and said that Mr. Handren, V.P. of Park & Tilford, and Mr. Hoffman, manager of their Midway plant, were at present in Mr. Groggins' office discussing the development at Owings Mills and inquired if Dr. Skinner wished to see them. It was arranged for Messrs. Tucker, Handren and Hoffman to come in at 2:30, which they did. Dr. Skinner explained to Mr. Handren the basis on which the aid to his company was being given at Owings Mills. Dr. Skinner made it clear to Mr. Handren that the justification for the Bureau going into work of this kind is on the assumption that it is a demonstration, the results of which are available to the public. To this Mr. Handren consented.

C O P Y

AIR MAIL

December 27, 1943

To: W. W. Skinner, Chief of Bureau
From: H. T. Herrick, Director
Subject: Granting of Two Hours' Leave on December 24,
1943

My attention has just been called to Memorandum No. P-392 authorizing the dismissal of members two hours in advance of the usual closing time on December 24, 1943. This memorandum was received here at 4:30 P.M. on December 24, too late to be of any use. Surely, in view of Miss Mohagen's telegram of December 23, someone could have taken the trouble to get the news to us in time to be of value.

Everyone here knew that other organizations were getting off two hours in advance, but because no answer was received to Miss Mohagen's telegram, I did not feel justified in extending this privilege to the members of this Laboratory, so that they were kept here until the usual time. For your information, the notice received by the library staff here was signed by Mr. Shaw and not by Mr. Reid, so it was without significance for us.

I have stated several times in Directors' Meetings that the attitude of the Washington administration toward the Regional Laboratories has a great bearing on the morale of those organizations. This is another instance of the apparent indifference to our interests to which I have taken, and shall continue to take, vigorous exception.

It has been suggested that I allow the Laboratory organization to take two hours' time off on December 31. I am forwarding this request to you without comment and for your decision. Certainly I shall take no steps to make this suggestion effective without complete authorization from Washington.

/s/ H. T. Herrick

C O P Y

December 29, 1943

To: H. T. Herrick, Director
Northern Regional Research Laboratory

From: W. W. Skinner, Chief of Bureau

Subject: Authorization for Release of Employees
December 24, 1943

Memorandum P-392 authorizing the release of employees of the Department staff two hours in advance of the usual closing time on December 24, 1943 was received in the afternoon of Tuesday, December 21. The notice was distributed the same afternoon by air mail to the several regional research laboratories and other field stations. It was felt that with Tuesday evening, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday morning, the use of air mail should assure the receipt of the notice in time to arrange for closing. In the case of the Western Laboratory we did send a telegram Tuesday evening because we were afraid the air mail might not carry through under present conditions. The air mail to the Southern Laboratory did go through. It is most unfortunate and regrettable that the notice did not reach you as expected here. It may have been an error of judgment to trust such an important notice to the U. S. Mail, but I must insist there was no indifference, no negligence, no procrastination in this office. The telegram of Miss Mohagen to which you refer in your letter of December 27, was never received. The first we knew of it was the receipt of the confirmation copy which arrived in this office yesterday, Tuesday, December 28. I am asking the telegraph office here to check this case.

I agree with you fully that it was unfortunate that the Northern Regional Laboratory staff was not excused, and it is natural that they should feel resentment. However, you knew that Mr. Shaw had notified his librarian and as you state you knew that other Federal employees were getting off two hours in advance, so it seems to me that your superior wisdom would have stimulated you to use the telephone, suspecting some serious interfer-(over)

ence in communication rather than some serious indifference on the part of the central office. In a matter affecting nearly 300 persons, I am sure the expense would have been justified. Miss Mohagen did the right thing in sending her telegram to Donovan, but the failure of delivery helped to mess up the matter. Neither you nor she could have foreseen the result of the failure of its delivery any more than we could anticipate the failure of our air mail to go through to you. I suppose I may assume that you will take whatever steps you think necessary to correct any impression on the part of your staff that the Chief of the Bureau was indifferent in this case.

Your repeated suggestion that the Washington office and the Chief of the Bureau are indifferent to the interests of the staffs of the regional research laboratories is untrue, unfair, unwarranted, impertinent and offensive. I shall be glad to have you file a bill of particulars, citing specific cases so that if warranted by supporting evidence of non-feasance or malfeasance, such as you have "stated several times in Directors' meetings", impeachment proceedings may be instituted or requested.

Your letter is addressed and officially mailed to me as Chief of the Bureau, and is a public record. I have therefore very deliberately written this reply for the record, sending copies to the Directors of the other laboratories, since the third paragraph of your letter intimates that your thought represents the feeling (although I do not believe it) of all four directors.

I regret, as I told you on the phone today, that it was not possible for me to authorize you to close early on New Year's Day to compensate for the failure to excuse the personnel on December 24, 1943.

P.S. The Department telegraph office has just advised that Miss Mohagen's telegram was not received in the Department, and they suggest that tracer should be initiated by your office.

HADonovan:WWSKinner:FMJ

cc to directors

" " Mr. Speh and Mr. Donovan

C O P Y

AIR MAIL

January 1, 1944

To: W. W. Skinner, Chief of Bureau

From: H. T. Herrick, Director

Subject: Memorandum of December 29, 1943

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 29, 1943, in reply to my memorandum of December 27. Probably I am deserving of the various personal remarks which you make in your letter. I certainly am not going to make an issue of them one way or another. Insofar as the matter of the handling of memorandum No. P-392 is concerned, the Bureau seems to have acted with due expedition, especially in view of the fact that the memorandum reached the Southern Laboratory on time. . . Whether a telegram should have been sent to the other Laboratories as well as to the Western Laboratory is a matter of opinion.

Insofar as the question of the indifference of the Washington administration is concerned, there are a number of letters, telegrams and other material sent to the Washington office since the establishment of this Laboratory, which have never been answered or acknowledged. There are also many others, the answer to which has been delayed for weeks, or even months. A search of the files would undoubtedly provide ample material on this subject. On the other hand, I feel that action of this kind would take a great deal of the time of the staff of this Laboratory in preparing the statement, and an equally large part of the time of the staff in Washington in replying to it. I doubt whether such expenditures are justified at this particular time, especially in view of the fact that I, myself, shall never be a party to charges of nonfeasance or malfeasance directed against any official of the Bureau in Washington.

Insofar as the other Directors are concerned, I know only what they have said to me on occasion; whether they care to put this in the form of a letter is a question. Probably I am the only one who would be ~~so~~ foolish

(over)

enough to do so. I trust that the memorandum which I sent out to the staff covering the failure of the notice of memorandum No. P-392 to reach this Laboratory in time for action here has answered your assumption that I would take whatever steps necessary to deal with the matter insofar as the Laboratory staff was concerned.

We have already initiated an investigation with respect to Miss Mohagen's telegram, since, if it is not delivered, this Laboratory would not be justified in paying for it. Postal Telegraph reported that they had a record of having sent it and would trace it from there.

/s/ H. T. Herrick

G-4851

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY



1022768794